

**Question for written answer E-000168/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Marietta Giannakou (PPE)**

Subject: Rape of women in India

The recent gang-rape of a 23-year-old Indian student on a New Delhi bus has once more focused attention on the harsh realities of everyday life for women in India, particularly in the capital, New Delhi, where the situation is made much worse by the problem of rape in particular.

Over the last 10 years around 40% of all crimes against women in India have occurred in New Delhi where the number of reported rapes is much higher than in other cities. While some of these crimes have claimed prominent victims, for example a Swiss diplomat a few years ago, in most cases those targeted, many of them underage, belong to the Dalit caste (Untouchables) at the lowest level of India's stratified society.

While official figures point to around 700 rapes in New Delhi in 2012, according to the authorities the actual figure is much higher, since most rapes go unreported, either because the victims do not trust the police or because they fear for their lives.

Notwithstanding greater public awareness and increased efforts by the authorities, no solution to the problem is in sight and, following the latest incident which has shaken the country to its roots, the situation is spiralling out of control with the media referring to a wave of terror, while many politicians are calling for tougher action and sterner penalties in a bid to get to grips with problem.

In view of this and in the framework of strategic cooperation between the EU and India:

1. Will the Commission focus on this problem more closely at the next round of talks with its Indian partners?
2. Will it seek to strengthen civil society and uphold the rights of women in the context of strategic cooperation with a view to preventing more extreme acts of this nature and any accompanying backlash?