

## **No centralised compensation for acid attack victims**

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The Central government has debunked the idea of setting up of a mechanism to deal with compensation claims of [acid attack](#) victims across the country. In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the government pleaded that there is no requirement for a centralised compensation mechanism, as such a system already exists in the states. The government also revealed that it has decided to issue circulars to all states and Union territories to make it mandatory for hospitals and private clinics to treat acid victims. The refusal of treatment of an [acid attack victim](#) will be dealt with strongly under legal provisions.

A PIL filed by an acid attack victim, Laxmi, had asked for setting up of a Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, also recommended by the Law Commission in its 226th report. The Board was supposed to deal with the compensation claims at the central level. But the government has taken a view that already State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) were handling the issue of compensation.

“Since the institutional mechanism already exists for deciding the cases of payment of compensation to acid attack victims and other crimes, creation of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board may not be required at this stage,” said the home ministry. “No hospital/clinic should refuse treatment citing lack of specialised facilities. The private hospitals will also be brought on board for compliance and States and UTs will use necessary means in this regard,” the affidavit said. Further, penal action will be taken against hospital/clinic for refusal to treat victims of acid attacks and other crimes in contravention of the provisions of section 357 Cr Pc (for compensation to crime victims).

The health ministry further informed that there was scheme in the 12th Plan to provide aid to hospitals across the country to upgrade and enhance the facilities to treat acid attack victims. It asked states to take advantage of this scheme. The [Supreme Court](#) will hear this PIL on Friday.

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