GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2021

CHILD RIGHTS AFFECTED DUE TO COVID-19

456. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) Whether Government has any data on increase in cases of child abuse due to the COVID-19 related lockdown situations;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) Whether there is any data on the increase in child marriage cases across the country due to financial difficulties caused due to COVID;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps being taken by Government to provide a safe shelter to children facing abuse or being married off early?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e) The Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act), 2015 mandates a safety net of services delivery structures along with institutional and non-institutional care for children in need of care and protection including children impacted by Covid 19. The Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme, Child Protection Services (CPS) scheme, which supports the measures for institutional and non-institutional care aimed at well-being of children in need of care and protection including victims of abuse. The primary responsibility of execution of the Act rests with the States/UTs.

The Ministry has issued advisories and guidelines to State Governments/UT Administrations for care and protection of children during the pandemic. State/UTs were directed to ensure immediate action for rehabilitation of COVID orphaned children as stipulated under JJ Act while leveraging facilities funded for Institutional and non-Institutional care under the CPS scheme. The Government has also shared the responsibility matrix of primary duty holders with States/UTs in the form of guidelines for rehabilitating children impacted due to Covid 19.

As per information provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there is no information as on date regarding data on increase in cases of child abuse due to the COVID-19 related lockdown situations and data on the increase in child marriage cases across the country due to financial difficulties caused due to COVID.

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