

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3347
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

HIGH RATE OF ACQUITTALS UNDER POCSO ACT

3347: Shri P. Wilson:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to set up more POCSO special courts in districts across the country including Tamil Nadu to deal with cases related to sexual assault on minors and to clear the pendency of over 2.26 lakh POCSO cases;
- (b) whether the Ministry has set up any expert body to look into the growing issue of high rate of acquittals under the POCSO Act and the abuse of the POCSO Act; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The POCSO Act, 2012 enacted by Government of India provides safeguards for children below the age of 18 years against sexual abuse. The Act provides for establishment of Special Courts for the purpose of ensuring speedy trial.

The Act was amended in 2019 to introduce more stringent punishment including death penalty for committing sexual crimes on children, with a view to deter the perpetrators & prevent such crimes against children.

As per the information received from Department of Justice, the Central Government has enacted 'The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act', 2018, which led to the establishment of the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), to bring more stringent provisions and expeditious trial and disposal of POCSO cases.

The FTSCs scheme was started with effect from 2nd October, 2019 to set up 1023 FTSCs for speedy disposal of rape and POCSO cases. As on 31.01.2023, 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 28 States/UTs, which have disposed more than 144000 cases. Regular review meetings have been conducted by the Department of Justice with States/UTs, including Tamil Nadu to expedite the robust implementation of the Scheme.
