

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2074
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

SAFETY OF CHILDREN IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

2074. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the recent incidents of violence, sexual abuse and other forms of abuse against children in schools and other educational institutions recently reported from different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to strengthen coordination with States and UTs for ensuring safety and protection of children;
- (c) whether Government proposes to strengthen implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012, including mandatory reporting, awareness programmes and institutional accountability; and
- (d) the details of funds released and awareness campaigns conducted under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme during the last two years, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) & (b): To ensure safety and protection of children in Government, Government-aided and Private Schools, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has issued Guidelines on School Safety and Security (01.10.2021), circulated to all States/UTs, Autonomous Bodies of DoSEL and stakeholder Ministries. These guidelines are uploaded on the website of DoSEL at <https://www.dsel-education.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/09/c0a04336ba662a93824b825a707bab5a.pdf>

The Guidelines fix accountability of school management, adopt a 'Zero Tolerance Policy', and cover physical, socio-emotional and cognitive safety, awareness/sensitisation, roles of school management, principals, teachers and parents, and procedures for reporting, support/counselling and corrective action; being advisory in nature, States & UTs are expected to adopt them as per requirement.

To further strengthen coordination, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) an autonomous body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development has circulated a Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools (2019) and the aforesaid

2021 Guidelines for adoption by all States & UTs, and operates a grievance redressal mechanism under which complaints received online/offline are examined and forwarded to the concerned State & district authorities, with progress monitored through reminders, follow-ups and review meetings.

(c): The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 provides a gender-neutral legal framework safeguarding every child defined under Section 2(1)(d) as a person below eighteen years, from sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. Government continues to strengthen its implementation as under:

(i). **Mandatory Reporting:** Section 19 obliges every person, including school authorities, to report offences to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) or local police; Section 21 penalises failure to report, with enhanced punishment where the person is in charge of an institution. The School Safety Guidelines issued by the Department of School, Ministry of Education stipulates that in cases of sexual abuse mandatory reporting under Sections 19 & 21 and require every school to constitute a Grievance Committee on Child Sexual Abuse each academic year. Advisories are regularly issued to States & UTs for compliance, timely FIR registration and referral to child protection institutions.

(ii). **Child-friendly Investigation & Trial:** Safeguards include recording of the child's statement at a place of the child's choice (Section 24), medical examination in the presence of a parent/trusted person (Section 27), trial by designated Special Courts with in-camera proceedings (Section 37) without the child seeing the accused (Section 36), and a child-friendly atmosphere during trial (Section 33). Section 35 mandates recording of evidence within 30 days of cognizance and trial completion within one year; Government supports Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious disposal through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being run by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(iii). **Support to Victims and Rehabilitation:** The POCSO Rules, 2020, operationalise support mechanisms for child victims. Rule 4 provides for care and protection through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC); Rule 5 provides for interpreters, translators, special educators, experts, and Support Persons; Rule 6 ensures emergency medical aid; and Rule 9 provides for interim compensation by the Special Court, payable by the State Government within 30 days. NCPCR's 2024 Model Guidelines under Section 39 detail Support Persons' role from reporting through investigation, trial, compensation and rehabilitation/reintegration of the child.

(iv). **Institutional Accountability:** NCPCR monitors implementation under Rule 12 of the POCSO Rules, 2020, and operates the POCSO Tracking Portal for real-time, life-cycle case tracking (reporting, Individual Care Plans, FIR/medical details, welfare-scheme mapping, Support Person allotment, free legal aid) and the POCSO e-Box, enabling children, or any person on their behalf, to directly report incidents of sexual abuse online.

(v). **Capacity Building:** Periodic sensitisation of school authorities, police personnel, SJPU, Child Welfare Committees and other stakeholders continues through orientation programmes, training modules and IEC materials, to strengthen awareness of child-friendly procedures and statutory obligations under the Act.

(d): Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Mission Vatsalya, States & UTs are supported for implementation of child protection services and for conducting awareness and capacity-building programmes at the grassroots level; the Ministry also organises zonal conferences and sensitisation/dissemination workshops with stakeholders. NCPCR conducts conferences, workshops, training programmes and Digital Outreach and Awareness Programmes to

strengthen implementation of child-centric legislations, including the POCSO Act. In 2025-26, 202 programmes were conducted including 30 held virtually, besides developing IEC materials to support Central and State Governments in spreading awareness on the POCSO Act, 2012, and on online child sexual abuse. The State & UT-wise details of funds released under Mission Vatsalya during the last two years are given at the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATES AND UTS-WISE DETAILS OF FUNDS RELEASED UNDER THE
MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS

(In Crores)

S.No.	Name of the States and UTs	2024-25 Amount released	2025-26 Amount released
1	Andhra Pradesh	44.03	38.72
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5.32	7.74
3	Assam	31.39	29.61
4	Bihar	53.35	51.95
5	Chhattisgarh	39.10	28.79
6	Goa	5.14	3.07
7	Gujarat	19.50	2.49
8	Haryana	6.40	7.85
9	Himachal Pradesh	37.68	22.56
10	Jammu & Kashmir	44.75	33.79
11	Jharkhand	18.73	29.76
12	Karnataka	86.48	45.48
13	Kerala	12.03	13.80
14	Madhya Pradesh	117.24	61.82
15	Maharashtra	144.97	78.90
16	Manipur	68.15	34.36
17	Meghalaya	22.30	42.75
18	Mizoram	37.06	33.65
19	Nagaland	33.92	28.36
20	Orissa	68.83	51.92
21	Punjab	14.76	13.94
22	Rajasthan	74.98	30.43
23	Sikkim	16.21	8.51
24	Tamil Nadu	122.82	89.14
25	Telangana	36.97	27.26
26	Tripura	19.23	18.11
27	Uttar Pradesh	92.05	107.15
28	Uttarakhand	14.49	20.14
29	West Bengal	70.18	47.50
30	Andaman & Nicobar Island	3.13	3.60
31	Chandigarh	7.63	4.90
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	9.91	2.89
33	Delhi	7.62	6.63
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.09
35	Ladakh	3.81	3.20
36	Puducherry	4.17	3.21
