

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN STARRED QUESTION NO. 4112
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2018

IMPLEMENTATION OF POCSO ACT

4112. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA :

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the rapid increase of crimes against children remain unnoticed as majority of cases go unregistered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has issued directions to the states including Haryana for stringent implementation of the Act; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

- (a) As per National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB), a total of 34,449, 34,505 and 36,022 cases registered under Sexual Abuse/Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively for crime against children accounting 0.2% in 2015 over 2014 and 4.4% in 2016 over 2015. Section 19 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 provides mandatory reporting of sexual offences. As per Section 21 of the Act, for failure to report or record a case, there is provision of punishment of imprisonment of either description which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.
- (b) Since the provisions of the POCSO Act has to be implemented by all stakeholders, no specific direction required for any State/UT.
- (c) In order to implement the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 a centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Child Protection Scheme(CPS) is being implemented with aim to create a safety net of dedicated structures, services and personnel for protection of children in need of care and protection. The objective is to contribute to improvement in the wellbeing of the children in difficult circumstances as well as reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, exploitation and separation of children from their families, etc. CPS provides for a 24-hour toll free helpline 1098 for children in distress and their families. For direct online reporting of the complaints, POCSO e-Box was launched on 26.08.2016. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights(NCPCR) is mandated to monitor implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012 under Section 44 and has been taking various actions to create awareness of the Act, and issuing advisory on various issues.
