

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN STARRED QUESTION NO. 4124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2019

POCSO ACT

4124. SHRIMATI RITA TARAI:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to amend the existing "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act" to cover sexual abuse of boys to make it gender neutral for justice to male child victims of sexual assault and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether her Ministry has also proposed amendments in the said Act to enhance the punishment prescribed in cases of sexual assault against young boys and sent the same to the Ministry of Law and Justice for its clearance and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Law Ministry in this regard;
- (c) the time by which these amendments are likely to be made in the POCSO; and
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to make special provisions to fund the activities of Child Protection Committees at block and Gram Panchayat levels and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a): The existing "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act" covers sexual abuse of boys also as it is a gender neutral Act.
- (b): The Ministry of Law and Justice has vetted the proposal for enhancement of the punishment in cases of sexual assault against children. The proposed amendments will be applicable to all children in India except Jammu and Kashmir where POCSO Act, 2012 is not applicable.
- (c): No specific time limit can be given, as it is the prerogative of Parliament.
- (d): There is already provision of Child Protection Committees at block and Gram Panchayat levels under the scheme of Child Protection Services.
