

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

FUNCTIONING OF NCPCR

553: SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

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

- (a) the functions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR) in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Commission regarding child trafficking, child marriage and sexual abuse cases during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Commission faces any kind of challenge during taking action against the culprits involve in these crimes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The functions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) as enumerated in Section -13 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights(CPCR) Act 2005 are attached at **Annexure-I**.

(b): The Commission has taken various steps towards combating child trafficking, to prevent child marriage and to curb sexual abuse cases against the children during the last three years, the details of which are given at **Annexure-II & III**.

(c)&(d): The Commission takes all possible steps to ensure that law enforcement agencies take stringent action against the culprits involved in such cases. In this regard, the Commission has held various sensitization, orientation and awareness generation workshops for multiple stakeholders.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

13. (1) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:-

- (a) Examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
- (b) Present to the Central Government, annually and at such other intervals, as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
- (c) Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases;
- (d) Examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disaster, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, trafficking: maltreatment, torture and exploitation, pornography and prostitution and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
- (e) look into the matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in, conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
- (f) study treaties and other international instruments and undertake periodical review of existing policies, programmes and other activities on child rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation in the best interest of children;
- (g) Undertake and promote research in the field of child rights;
- (h) spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means;
- (i) inspect or cause to be inspected any juvenile custodial home, or any other place of residence or institution meant for children, under the control of the Central Government or any State Government or any other authority, including any institution run by a social organisation; where children are detained or lodged for the purpose of treatment, reformation or protection and take up with these authorities for remedial action, if found necessary;
- (j) Inquire into complaints and take suo-moto notice of matters relating to,-
 - (i) Deprivation and violation of child rights;
 - (ii) Non-implementation of laws providing for protection and development of children;
 - (iii) Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at, mitigating hardships to and ensuring welfare of the children and to provide relief to such children,or take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities; and
- (k) such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of child rights and any other matter incidental to the above functions.

(2) The Commission shall not inquire into any matter which is pending before a State Commission or any other Commission duly constituted under any law for the time being in force.

This section enumerates in detail the functions of the Commission considered necessary for overall promotion and protection of child rights.

Steps taken by NCPCR regarding Child Trafficking during the last 3 years.

I. 2019-20

NCPCR organized three (3) one day district level workshops on Combating Child Trafficking in the North Eastern Region of our Country viz; at Kokrajhar, Tezpur and Dibrugarh, Assam on 16.03.2019, 19.03.2019 and 22.03.2019. Police officials, Media professionals, JJB Members, CWCs, DCPUs, SJPU, DCPOs, Law students, Youth Groups, Student volunteers, participated in the workshop.

II. 2020-21

NCPCR organized series of one day district level workshops on Combating Child Trafficking at various potential Source and Destination Hotspot districts of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and West Tripura, NER viz.

Sl. No.	District/State
1.	Karbianglong, Assam
2.	Churachandpur, Manipur
3.	Chandel, Manipur
4.	Imphal East, Manipur
5.	Kohima, Nagaland
6.	Agartala, West Tripura
7.	Kokrajhar, Assam
8.	Dibrugarh, Assam

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the workshops conducted by the Commission were to;

1. Assess the current situation of Child Rights with focus on child trafficking at the District/State Level;
2. Review the effectiveness of the provisions of ITPA, JJA, IPC and other laws for the rescue and post-rescue work;
3. Exchange the experience amongst the concerned agencies with regard to rescue and post-rescue work;
4. Suggest ways to overcome the problems faced by the various government functionaries involved in rescue and post-rescue work;
5. Examine the involvement of NGOs;
6. Discuss the roles, responsibilities and functions of the various stakeholders in combating trafficking;
7. Bring all the stakeholders together and come up with recommendations.
8. Assess programs, legislations, judicial interventions at State Level etc.;
9. Analyse the dimensions of child trafficking in the District; and
10. Discuss modus operandi (a particular way of doing something) of traffickers;

PARTICIPANTS:

The participants who attended the said workshops were Deputy Commissioners of the concerned Districts, Police Officers (of the rank of Superintendent of Police/Deputy Superintendent of Police/Inspector having experience of handling cases under the ITPA/other laws related to rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims), Government Officials (of the rank of Superintendent or Probation Officer or any State Home for Women/Protective Home/Rescue Home/Juvenile Home/Nari-Niketan having experience of handling cases under the ITPA/other laws related to rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims), District Child Welfare officers of Police Stations, District head of SJPU, Child-line full unit, District Labour officer, Block level officers, DCPU, District Education officers, CDPOs, representative from District Health Departments and representatives of some Civil Society Organizations working in the field, Media professionals, JJB Members, CWCs, DCPUs, SJPU, DCPOs, Law students, Youth Groups, Student volunteers also participated in the workshop.

III. 2021-22

Human trafficking is a serious crime and worst forms of violation of human rights that occurs throughout the world, including India, which has gained momentum in past few years. In India, trafficking is primarily an offence under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. It defines trafficking as (i) recruitment, (ii) transportation, (iii) harbouring, (iv) transfer, or (v) receipt of a person for exploitation by use of certain forceful means. In addition, there are also other laws which regulate trafficking for specific purposes. The reasons for the increase in this phenomenon are multiple and complex. The exploitative nature of this crime feeds on poverty, despair, war, crises, calamities (both man-made and natural), pandemics, ignorance and unequal status of women and children in most societies.

The trade of humans trafficked is most commonly for the purpose of sexual, slavery, forced labour, or commercial sexual exploitation, for the trafficker or others. Sizeable number of humans trafficked across the globe and within India are children. The gamut of other exploitative situations related to child trafficking includes; providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage, pushing a child into traditional sex work, extraction of organs or tissues, using for surrogacy or ovary removal, conducting medical tests as guinea pigs, sale of babies for adoption, acquiring children for illegal activities through adoption, under the façade of medical tourism etc.

According to the NCRB records, it is noted that thousands of children go missing each year from India. As per Crime in India (CII) data, during the year 2016 a total of 63,407 children, during 2017, 63,349 children, and during 2018 a total of 67,134 children have been reported as missing. There are several Source and Destination hotspots from where children get trafficked inter-states and across the borders, internationally. Certain pockets of our country viz. the Eastern and North Eastern region are particularly vulnerable due to the porous borders they share with Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan and China. In view of the above facts NCPDR, through its North East Cell held the following activities related to Child Trafficking viz;

1. Virtual meetings to discuss the issue of Child Trafficking with SCPCRs of Source Hotspot States

In this backdrop, NCPCR to understand the situation of Child Trafficking better and Chairperson NCPCR held various virtual meetings with State CPCR of trafficking prone Hotspots States with focus on Eastern and North Eastern States of our country in FY' 2021-22. In the detailed virtual discussions each State SCPCRs shared with NCPCR the gaps, challenges faced w.r.t combating the menace of child trafficking and way forward action to be initiated in this regard.

2. National Level Multi- stakeholders E-Consultation meeting to Combat Child Trafficking Post Lockdown Situation due to COVID-19

During the period of COVID-19 pandemic, the world has been going through an extraordinary situation resulting in global crisis to combat the said pandemic. Multiple measures have been taken globally and within the country in India to counter the spread of novel corona virus. One of the major steps taken by the Governments (Centre and State) is observation of a lock down, resulting in no mobility and people staying home or location where they are, with advisory by the Governments to observe social distancing in consultation with health experts. In the aftermath of post lock down during COVID-19 pandemic, various caution and care mechanisms were required to be undertaken to create safeguards for combating child trafficking. Children are at potential risks of being exposed to unconventional and newer exploitative means adopted by the predators who await every possible opportunity to exploit children and get them into their fold of trafficking for various purposes. Multipronged solution focused interventions are required to curb any/all probable incidences of child trafficking in existing circumstances post lock down. Concerted efforts in collaboration with Centre and State Governments, NGOs, CSOs are required to be taken at the macro and micro level. NCPCR proposes to hold a meeting with a "Consultative Group" which would meet through e-platform, to dwell upon the responses and draft recommendations to combat child trafficking post lockdown.

Responding to the aforementioned situation, Chairperson, National Commission for protection of Child Rights convened a virtual National Level Multi- stakeholders E-Consultation meeting to Combat Child Trafficking Post Lockdown Situation due to COVID-19 involving multiple stakeholder's viz. officials from Niti Aayog, Chairperson and Members of State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) of Source and Destination Hotspot States, International Organisations working in the field of Trafficking viz.; UNODC, UNESCO, UNAIDS etc. along with other CSOs/NGOs active at ground level, Experts in the field of child trafficking on 8th May 2021.

Some of the points proposed for discussions were as follows:

- I. Focused interventions for vulnerable hotspot Source States of Eastern and North Eastern Region of our country viz. West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and NE States. Similarly, focused intervention for Destination States of our country.
- II. Formation of sub-groups for effective prevention, rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation for Source and Destination States.

- III. Spreading wider awareness regarding combating child trafficking in schools, blocks, villages, communities, panchayat etc.
- IV. Strict monitoring of public transport facilities such as buses and other means of road transports, bus terminals, toll nakaas on borders, railway stations, ferries, airways etc.
- V. Mobilization of youth groups and community/village leaders to become watchdogs for predators of trafficking in hunt of children.
- VI. Monitoring of Health care facilities and CCIs including Shelter Homes, Adoption agencies, Schools, Hostels, Aanganwadi Centres etc.
- VII. Monitoring of reporting mechanisms-Missing Vs Trafficked 8. Creating a safety mesh at Regional, Zonal and State Level of Government officials, NGOs, Youth Groups, Media to combat trafficking. 9. Any/all issues flagged by the “Consultative Group”.

3. NCPCR’s Document containing Recommendations on “Preventing Child Trafficking Post Lock Down “Due to COVID 19 Pandemic

Further, based on the inputs received and observations made by the Commission through various meetings conducted virtually with SCPCRs, other stakeholders, various rescue operations conducted during lockdown period and inquiries taken up by the Commission, it has been noted that recommendations to “Combat Child Trafficking, Post Lock Down Situation due to COVID-19” needs to be focused on Preventive and Curative aspects at the Source, Transit and Destination Hotspot States. Since apprehensions have been raised by various stakeholders that Child Trafficking may go on incline during and after COVID-19 lockdown situation, NCPCR has outlined recommendations from preventive aspects, to be referenced to for the time being, during extra ordinary circumstances due to COVID-19 lockdown.

The Commission has formulated the said recommendations in consonance with the Advisory issued by MHA dated 06th July 2020 for “Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking especially during COVID-19 Pandemic period”. The Commission has laid out specific recommendations at Source, Transit and Destination Hotspots. The recommendations formulated by the Commission outlines basic indicators for identification of vulnerable families and children at risk of trafficking at the village/urban habitation level and provided with a safety mesh at the family level. The Commission has observed that providing benefits of various welfare schemes provisioned by the State/Centre Governments to the vulnerable families makes the preventive process more family centric. Once the family is provided with benefits of the relevant Governmental Welfare Schemes from the perspective of the best interest of child, the family in turn becomes child centric; family being considered as the primary unit of child security. Hence, the Commission feels that providing the vulnerable family with the social protection cover shall reduce the risk of a child getting trafficked.

To enable this process, meetings at District, Block and Village levels are required to be undertaken and identification and matching of the vulnerable families having children at risk with the available Governmental Welfare schemes beneficial for the family is required to be done. The entire process needs to be tracked at the Village, Block, District, State and National Level. SCPCR and NCPCR along with CSOs and other stakeholders shall play a key role in monitoring this process.

4. SAMVARDHAN: PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING DURING POST LOCKDOWN SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ACTION INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION:

- i NCPCR has held virtual meetings with all State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) of Hotspot States.
- ii On the occasion of “*World Day against Trafficking in Persons*” with focus on Children, the Commission organized a Webinar on “*Preventing Child Trafficking Post Lockdown situation due to COVID19*” on 30th July 2020 chaired by Chairperson NCPCR and Expert panelists viz. Padmashri Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, Dr. Anamika Singh, IAS, Director WCD, NITI Aayog, Shri Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Director, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Dr. Sunita Changkakati, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (Assam SCPCR) Smt. Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborty Chairperson West Bengal (WBSCPCR), Dr. P.M. Nair, Former Director General, NDRF, Expert in Human Trafficking Issues
- iii The Commission, in collaboration with Jharkhand SCPCR, District Administration has pilot launched “**Samvardhan**” Program first of its kind exercise for mapping of children and their families vulnerable to child trafficking in Khunti District of Jharkhand at District, block, village/panchayat and urban habitation levels. Shri Arjun Munda, Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Tribal Affairs had inaugurated the said pilot launch. Similar such mapping exercise has been planned in Dumka District of Jharkhand subsequently. The said exercise has been completed wherein data has been collected at village level by various committees as mentioned in NCPCRs recommendations on “Preventing Child Trafficking Post Lockdown due to COVID-19 Pandemic”. The data collection is complete and the Commission has received information regarding approx. 3825 vulnerable children from various villages in blocks of Khunti District, Jharkhand. The Commission would be treating the same as grievances and sharing with the district administration for needful action.
- iv The Commission has pilot launched “**Samvardhan**” Program; Mapping of Children & Families Vulnerable to Child Trafficking and Matching them with benefits under various Schemes of Government of India and State Government” in 10 Districts of Bihar viz. Sitamadhi, Samastipur, Gaya, Katihar, West Champaran, Arariya, Purniya, Madhubani Muzafarpur and Darbhanga December 2020 in collaboration with Bihar SCPCR, District Administration of the mentioned 10 Child Trafficking prone hotspot districts executed by CSO partner; Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA)
- v The Commission has initiated a pilot launch of “Mapping of Children & Families Vulnerable to Child Trafficking and matching them with benefits under various Schemes of Government of India and State Government in Baksa District of Assam in collaboration with Assam SCPCR. Similar such exercise shall be undertaken in various Hotspot districts of Tripura.

- vi The Commission has also requested Ministry of DONER to financially assist Assam SCPCR to undertake mapping of all the vulnerable children and their families in various district of Assam. A proposal to that effect has been submitted by ASCPCR to Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and NCPCR.
- vii The Commission has conducted a State Level workshop on “Mapping of Children & Families Vulnerable to Child Trafficking and matching them with benefits under various Schemes of Government of India and State Government in Imphal, Manipur on 20th January 2021 in collaboration with Manipur SCPCR.

5. The Commission held three (3) One Day State Level Workshops on Preventing Child Trafficking during Extra Ordinary Situation of COVID 19 in the State of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura in September 2021. The workshop were held in collaboration with respective State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) with all the concerned stakeholders as mentioned in NCPCRs recommendation document on preventing child trafficking during post lockdown situation due to COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Further, the Commission held a “National Workshop on Child Rights with emphasis on Preventive aspects of Child Protection Issue” organised by NCPCR on the occasion of celebrating “Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav” to be held on 21.11.2021 at Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. The said workshop was presided by Hon’ble Minister, MWCD, Secretary MWCD and attended by other stakeholders from Judiciary, Legal, Media, Representatives Central Ministries, State Departments, State SCPCRs, DGP/IGs and other senior Police officials representing AHTUs, Secretary’s/Senior and other INGO/NGOs/CSOs, Individual Experts, Child Line India and its partners, Railway Child Line, Panchayati Raj etc. Experts like Padmashree Dr. Sunitha Krishnan and Dr. P.M. Nair, Former Director General, NDRF and leading Expert in the field of Child/human Trafficking addressed the stakeholder on “Preventive strategies to combat child trafficking” and “ Judicial and Legal provisions to combat child trafficking”.

7. **“बाल त कर से आज़ाद ” Combating Child Trafficking Campaign in 75 Bordering Districts of Assam**

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), as an apex statutory body constituted under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament of India, commemorated “World day against Human Trafficking” observed on 30th July, 2022. On this occasion, NCPCR rolled out a 25 days long campaign i.e. “Combating Child Trafficking - “बाल त कर से आज़ाद ”” in 75 bordering Districts of India under the banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav (AKAM), to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India.

NCPCR had identified 75 Bordering Districts of our country to roll out a 25 day campaign starting 1st August 2022 to 25th August 2022 viz. “Combating Child Trafficking- बाल त कर से आज़ाद ” to celebrate “World day against Human Trafficking” observed on 30th

July, 2022 under the banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav (AKAM). The campaign focused on holding Sensitization Workshops for 1st Responders i.e. Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)/ Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) of Thanas and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) of the identified districts. (List is placed below for reference)

LIST OF 75 BORDERING DISTRICTS OF INDIA FOR ROLLING OUT CAMPAIGN ON PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING		
Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Bordering Districts
1	ASSAM 8 Districts	Baksa
2		Udalguri
3		Dhubri
4		Kokrajhar
5		South Salmara- Mankachar
6		Cachar
7		Karimganj
8		Chirang
9	BIHAR 7 Districts	Araria
10		Kishanganj
11		Supaul
12		Madhubani
13		West Champaran-Betiah
14		Sitamarhi
15		East Champaran-Motihari
16	MANIPUR 6 Districts	Ukhrul
17		Kamjong
18		Chur Chandpur
19		Pherzawl
20		Tengnoupal
21		Chandel
Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Bordering Districts
22	MEGHALAYA 8 Districts	East Khasi Hills
23		West Khasi Hills
24		West Garo Hills
25		South West Garo Hills
26		South Garo Hills
27		South West Khasi Hills
28		East Jaintia Hills
29		West Jaintia Hills
30	MIZORAM 9 Districts	Mamit
31		Saitual
32		Serchhip
33		Hnahthial
34		Lunglei

35		Lawngtlai
36		Siaha
37		Champhai
38		Khawzawl
 		
39	NAGALAND 5 Districts	Kiphire
40		Mon
41		Noklak
42		Phek
43		Tuensang
 		
44	SIKKIM 2 Districts	West Sikkim
45		North Sikkim
 		
46	TRIPURA 8 Districts	Dhalai
47		Gomati
48		Khowai
49		North Tripura
50		Sepahijala
51		South Tripura
52		Unakoti
53		West Tripura
 		
54	UTTAR PRADESH 8 Districts	Baharaich
55		Balrampur
56		Kushi Nagar
57		Lakhimpur Kheri
58		Maharajanj
59		Pilibhit
60		Shrawasti
61		Siddhartha Nagar
 		
62	UTTARAKHAND 3 Districts	Champawat
63		Pithoragarh
64		Udham Singh Nagar
 		
65	WEST BENGAL 11 Districts	Cooch Behar
66		Alipurduar
67		Jalpaiguri
68		Kalimpong
69		Darjeeling
70		Dakshin Dinajpur
71		Malda
72		Uttar Dinajpur
73		North 24 Parganas
74		Nadia
75		Murshidabad

Annexure-III

Steps taken by NCPDR regarding Child Sexual Abuse and Child Marriage during the last 3 years:

1. NCPDR has developed information, education and communication (IEC) material to support the Centre and State Government for dissemination of information and awareness on POCSO Act 2012. The following IEC material is available on the NCPDR's website www.ncpdr.gov.in.
 - i. An easy guide for implementation of the POCSO Act 2012.
 - ii. A Guide for District Administration for Implementation of Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and POCSO Act 2012
 - iii. Child Victims of Cyber Crime – Legal Tool Kit
 - iv. User Handbook on the POCSO Act 2012
 - v. Do's and Don'ts for Stay Safe on Internet

Since March 2020, the Commission organized different online programs for awareness generation on various aspects of Child sexual abuse/ POCSO Act/Cyber Safety on its official social media platforms (face book, twitter and YouTube), which are as follows:

- i. Chairperson, NCPDR conducted a Twitter Chat in collaboration with Cyber Peace Foundation on the subject of "Child Online Safety during COVID 19" on 8th April 2020.
- ii. Webinar on Cyber safety- Keeping Children Safe Online (Making online schooling cyber safe) was organized on 18th May 2020.
- iii. Webinar on Cyber safety- Keeping Children Safe Online (How can school participate in cyber safety – A whole school approach in cyber safety) was organized on 19th May 2020.
- iv. Webinar on Cyber safety- Keeping Children Safe Online (Cyber safety at Home) was organized on 20th May 2020.
- v. Webinar on "Child Sexual Abuse: Forensic Jurisprudence & Role of Police" was organized 29th June 2020.
- vi. Webinar on "New Age Cyber Crime & Online Protection of Children: Challenges and Solutions" was organized 23rd September 2020.
- vii. Informative posters and material on following topics was circulated on social media platforms on 8 June 2020 onwards.
 - Safe Online Learning in Times of COVID -19
 - Cyber Bullying
 - How to stay safe online
 - How to prevent and counter bullying
- viii. Webinar on Forensic inputs in investigation of Sexual Offences: Scope, Challenges and Way forward, was organized on 27th November 2021.

2. Benches/Camps in Aspirational districts on the issues of Child Rights:

The Commission organised 55 Benches/Camps in aspirational districts of various State/UTs during 2019-20. With this proactive effort of taking all the stakeholders on board at district level, the Commission pointed out a number of issues related to child rights including child sexual abuse before the district authorities, concerned officials of SJPU, CWCs, Childline, DCPO, WCD department and SCPCRs. The Commission also heard a number of grievances

during its camps in the districts. Visits, Inspection and interaction with children, was also done to understand their concerns. Reaching out at ground level is still continued, in the year 2022, 07 Bench/Camps were organized till September in tribal districts of various States.

3. Inter-departmental Review Meeting with the States/UTs:

NCPCR organized 35 online meetings with all State/UTs during October–November 2020. To fulfill the purpose a number of issues/ indicators were shortlisted to take up during the meetings with State authorities. A detailed exercise was carried out to identify indicators based on various child-related legislations. The indicators were on programmes and provisions provided under the key children related legislations. The issue of maximum implementation of POCSO Act provisions and awareness on Child marriage cases was also covered.

4. Regional meetings on POCSO

During 2022, the Commission organized regional meetings on “POCSO: Factors hindering the Implementation and aspects of assistance to victims” in different regions of the country with an objective to build a comprehensive understanding on the implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012; discuss important aspects of assistance to POCSO victims and identify deliverables for NCPCRs /SCPCRs .

5. Cognizance on the issue of Mass Marriages on Akshay Tritiya:

The Commission has observed that Akshay Tritiya or Akha Teej has been celebrated in various parts of India as a day of good fortune and a large number of child marriages are solemnized on this day in various States of the country. In this regard, the Commission requested Principal Secretaries of Women and Child Development Department of twenty two States/ UTs vide letter dated 7th April 2022, to direct District Magistrates/CMPOs of all districts to conduct activities certain activities, as a proactive step for prevention of child marriages. They were asked to conduct the following activities:

- (i) Undertake awareness programmes at village, panchayat, block, urban/ward, zila tehsil level:
- (ii) Conduct meetings regarding awareness programmes on Child Marriage with CDPOs, CWCs, CWPOs, AWWs, religious priests who may be responsible for performing marriages and service providers during marriage functions such as printing press, tent providers, managers of marriage halls, caterers, music bands and decorators etc.
- (iii) Prepare a school wise list of children who are drop out, out of school and not attending school regularly.
- (iv) Prepare a school wise list of children absent from school without intimation to the Principal or Head Master of the school in accordance with Rule 2B (2) of Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017.
- (v) This list must be prepared by Education Department of the district and shared with the DM/CMPO of the district.
- (vi) DM/CMPO must identify children from these lists who can be at risk of child marriage. Family counseling and proper inquiry of all such identified children must be ensured to prevent any possible child marriage.

Further, directions were also issued to District Magistrates of these States and virtual meetings were held during 21st April to 24th May, 2022 to review the status of activities conducted by the authorities of each district of the State. The participants of the meetings were as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| i. Child Marriage Prohibition Officer
(not below the rank of ADM) | v. DCPO-ICPS/Mission Vatsalya |
| ii. Head of SJPU
(not below the rank of DSP/ACP) | vi District Programme Coordinator-
Samgra Siksha Abhiyan |
| iii. District Education Officer (DEO) | vii. CWCs |
| iv. DPO-ICDS | viii. Labour officer |

It is pertinent to mention here, that every year the Commission issues fresh directives to the concerned departments of States/UTs to remain vigilant during Akshay Tritiya.

6. POCSO tracking portal:

The POCSO tracking portal was launched by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, former Chief Justice of India, on 17th July 2022. The tracking portal has been conceptualized in joint collaboration of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

In pursuance of its role of monitoring the implementation of the Act, mentioned u/s 44 of POCSO Act 2012 and understanding the need of dedicated system to facilitate services to the POCSO victims, the requirement of a dedicated portal for such purpose was realized.

It is envisioned for real time tracking of the cases of victims of child sexual abuse and facilitates them to provide services such as victim compensation and rehabilitation for their care and protection.
