GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA

UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2974 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

2974. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR:

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

- a. the steps taken by the Government for the development of women in Gaya Parliamentary Constituency in the State of Bihar;
- b. whether any steps have been taken by the Government for the orphan children in the State of Bihar;
- c. if so, the details thereof; and
- d. the details of the steps taken by the Government for the single parent's child in the State of Bihar during the Corona pandemic?

ANSWER

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

(a): To ensure better monitoring and efficient implementation across the country including Gaya parliamentary constituency of Bihar, presently in the XVth Finance Commission Cycle, all the schemes for women and children of the Ministry have been clubbed together into three verticals, viz. (1) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition indicators in the country (2) Mission Shakti, for safety, security and empowerment of women; and (3) Mission Vatsalya, for protection and welfare of children. The details of these schemes are as under:

(i) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0: This programme has been reorganized into 3 primary verticals: (i) Nutrition Support for POSHAN and for Adolescent Girls (ii) Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and (iii) Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadis.

(ii) Mission Shakti: Mission Shakti comprises of two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya' for safety and security of women and empowerment of women respectively. The existing schemes of One Stop Centres (OSC), Women Helplines (181-WHL) and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) have been made part of Sambal sub- scheme; while the existing schemes of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel and National Creche Scheme have been included in 'Samarthya'. A new component of Hub for Empowerment of Women has been included in 'Samarthya' sub-scheme, under which the Central Government provides financial assistance to States/ UTs including Bihar for setting up of Hub at State and District level.

(iii) Mission Vatsalya: Under Mission Vatsalya, the Child Protection Scheme(CPS) has been strengthened for better outreach and protection for children in need and care in a mission mode with the objective to: (i) Support and sustain Children in difficult circumstances, (ii) Develop context-based solutions for holistic development of children from varied backgrounds, (iii) Provide scope for green field projects for encouraging innovative solutions, (iv) Cement convergent action by gap funding, if required.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering 'the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015)' which is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and well-being of children. The Act provides for protection of children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law by catering to their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment and social reintegration. It defines standards of care and protection to secure the best interest of child. Under the JJ Act 2015 (Sections 27-30), the Child Welfare Committees have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection including rehabilitation of orphan and destitute children, keeping their best interest in mind.

The Ministry also implements a centrally sponsored scheme namely "Mission Vatsalya" (erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme) through State and UT Governments for delivering services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) including orphan children and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). The Child Care Institutions (CCI) established under the scheme support *inter-alia* age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, etc.

(d): The details of the steps taken by the Government for the single parent's child in the State of Bihar during the corona pandemic are not available. However, the PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched by The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 29th May 2021 to support children who have lost both the Parents or legal Guardian or Adoptive Parents or Survivfing Parent to COVID-19 pandemic during the period starting from 11th March 2020. The objective of the Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of Children in a sustained manner, and enable their well being through health insurance, empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support on reaching 23 years of age.
