GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4076 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023

EXPLOITATION OF MINOR MAID

4076. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to prevent exploitation and abuse of children as maids and further prevent the practice of using under-aged girls as domestic helps;
- (b) whether reports of violence against girls employed illegally as maids have been brought to the notice of the Ministry;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- the details of assaults and exploitation against girls kept illegally as domestic helps in the country during the last three years and current year?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per the information received from Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Government having given consideration of various aspects of the problems of child labour, enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which was amended in 2016. The amended Act is now called the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which inter-alia provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years in any occupation and process and adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The Act also provides for stricter punishment of employers for violation of the Act and made the offence as cognizable. Also, 'domestic workers or servants have been included in the Schedule - Part B, of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, wherein children are prohibited to help in domestic work.

Further, the Government of India has enacted the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to provide safeguards for children against sexual abuse. The Act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years. The POCSO Act, 2012 provides for establishment of Special Courts for the purpose of ensuring speedy trial. The Act was amended in 2019 to introduce more stringent punishment including death penalty for committing sexual crimes on children, with a view to deter the perpetrators & prevent such crimes against children.

As per information received, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has taken following steps:

- i. All the complaints received by the Commission are redressed through the District and State authorities, as per the provisions of CLPRA Act, 1986. Further, in regard to the same the Commission also takes cognizance either suo-moto or on receipt of the complaints, which are in violation of the Schedule, Part A Occupation- clause 14, w.r.t. Section 3A of the CLPRA Act.
- ii. Further, the Commission has taken cognizance on the illegal Placement Agencies involved in trafficking of children in various parts of the country and issued a letter to Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs to take initiative to bring law for monitoring of placement agencies so that the trafficked children could be protected from violation in the country.
- iii. NCPCR issued another letter to Deputy Commissioners of Police of all districts of Delhi for submitting list of Placement Agencies operating in their jurisdiction along with details of RWAs where the possibility of engagement of minors in jobs such as maid/ domestic help in homes and offices cannot be ruled out, attracting the provisions of juvenile justice Act 2015 and the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.
- iv. The Commission has also developed an SOP for Rescue and Post Rescue of child labour.

(d): As per the information provided by National Crime Records Bureau, State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Male Victims (MV), Female Victims (FV), Transgender Victims (TRV), Total Victims (TV), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act during 2019-2021 is at Annexure-I.

Annexure-I State/UT-wise Cases Registered(CR), Cases Chargesheeted(CCS), Cases Convicted(CON), Male Victims(MV), Female Victims (FV), Transgender Victims (TRV), Total Victims (TV), Persons Arrested(PAR), Persons Chargesheeted(PCS) and Persons Convicted(PCV) under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act during 2019-2021

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