

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN STARRED QUESTION NO.4485**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020

**POCSO ACT, 2012**

4485. SHRI MATI NUSRAT JAHAN RUHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up any child friendly courts as prescribed under POCSO Act, 2012;
- (b) if so, the number of such courtrooms established in each State, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the steps undertaken by the Government to make these courts child friendly;
- (d) if not, the reasons for the non-compliance with the act; and
- (e) whether the Ministry has conducted any research study on the effectiveness and impact of such courts, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e) Section 28 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 provides for establishment of Special Courts for trying the offences under the POCSO Act. The POCSO Act has adequate provisions to ensure that child-friendly procedures are adopted by Special Courts during the trial. These include the following:

- i. The Special Court shall create child-friendly atmosphere by allowing a family member, a guardian, a friend or a relative, in whom the child has trust or confidence, to be present in the court [Section 33(4)];
- ii. The Special Court may, if it considers necessary, permit frequent breaks for the child during the trial [Section 33(3)];
- iii. The Special Court shall ensure that the child is not called repeatedly to testify in the court [Section 33(5)];
- iv. The Special Court shall not permit aggressive questioning or character assassination of the child and ensure that dignity of the child is maintained at all times during the trial [Section 33(6)];
- v. The Special Court shall ensure that the identity of the child is not disclosed at any time during the course of investigation or trial [Section 33(7)];
- vi. The Special Court shall try cases in camera and in the presence of the parents of the child or any other person in whom the child has trust or confidence [Section 37];
- vii. The Special Court shall ensure that the child is not exposed in any way to the accused at the time of recording of the evidence [Section 36(1)];
- viii. The Act provides that whenever necessary, the Court may take the assistance of a translator or interpreter having such qualifications, experience and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, while recording the evidence of the child [Section 38].

Section 44 (1) of the POCSO Act provides that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) shall monitor the implementation of the provisions of the POCSO Act. As per information provided by NCPCR there are 664 Special Courts established across the country till 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. The State/UT-wise list of Special Courts is at **Annexure-I**.

Besides, as informed by Department of Justice, an amount of Rs.99.99 crore has been released to 28 States/UTs for setting up of 651 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 363 POCSO courts.

**Statement Referred To In Part (a) to (e) of Reply To Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No.4485 for answer on 20.03.2020 raised by SHRIMATI NUSRAT JAHAN RUHI on “POCSO ACT, 2012” indicating State/UT-wise details of Special Courts established across the country till 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of the State/UT</b>	<b>No. of Special Courts</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	14
2	Assam	24
3	A & N Islands	1
4	Arunachal Pradesh	5
5	Bihar	38
6	Chhattisgarh	51
7	Chandigarh UT	1
8	Delhi	16
9	Daman & Diu	2
10	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
11	Goa	1
12	Gujarat	33
13	Himachal Pradesh	11
14	Haryana	22
15	Jharkhand	24
16	Kerala	3
17	Karnataka	30
18	Lakshadweep	Nil
19	Manipur	9
20	Mizoram	5
21	Madhya Pradesh	51
22	Meghalaya	6
23	Maharashtra	36
24	Nagaland	8
25	Odisha	30
26	Punjab	22
27	Pondicherry	1
28	Rajasthan	55
29	Sikkim	4
30	Tamil Nadu	32
31	Telangana	10
32	Tripura	7
33	Uttar Pradesh	75
34	Uttrakhand	13
35	West Bengal	23
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>664</b>