

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1645**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

**SUICIDE CASES OF TRIBAL GIRLS**

1645. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

- (a) Whether the Government has taken note of the rising cases of suicide of tribal girls after being victims of drug addiction and sexual abuse by drug peddlers;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the Government is aware of the suicide of girls reported recently from the tribal colonies in Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) Whether the Government would consider measures to address this issue and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The Government accords highest priority for ensuring safety and security of children and has undertaken various interventions in this regard. To safeguard children against sexual abuse and sexual harassment, Government has enacted Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years. The Act was further 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.

The Ministry of Women and Child Welfare has collaborated with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, under "SAMVAD" for extending Support Advocacy & Mental Health Interventions for Children in Vulnerable Circumstances And Distress. SAMVAD works in four key thematic areas, namely Mental Health, Care & Protection, Education and Policy & Law and has reached out to 1,04,766 people across 28 States through various training and capacity building programs and through public discourse series conducted via Virtual Knowledge Network Systems.

As per the information received from State Government of Kerala, 3 cases of suicides of children who were survivors of POCSO in Trivandrum District were brought to the notice of the Department in Vithura, Peringamala region, Thiruvananthapuram District.

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