

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3397
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

CHILD ABUSE

3397. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) The steps taken by the Government in the direction of checking child abuse and child labour in the recent years;
- (b) The number of children across the country have been freed from child labour, State/UT-wise;
- (c) The complaints received of child labour in the roadside dhabas, hotels, institutions etc. in Rajasthan during the last three years; and
- (d) If so, the details of action taken by the Ministry and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government has enacted the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to safeguard children against sexual abuse and sexual harassment. 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 the death penalty for committing sexual crimes on children, with a view to deter the perpetrators & prevent such crimes against children. The POCSO Rules, 2020 were also notified by the Ministry to protect the children from exploitation/violence and sexual exploitation.

Further, as per information received from the Ministry of Labour, the Government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to eliminate child labour and has taken comprehensive measures which include legislative measures, rehabilitation strategy, providing right of free education and general socio-economic development so as to eliminate the incidence of child labour. The details of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation strategy and education are as under:

- i. Government has enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force w.e.f. 1.9.2016.
- ii. Framing of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Central Rules
- iii. Framing of model State Action Plan enumerating action points to be taken by respective State Governments and circulation of the same to all Chief Secretaries.
- iv. The Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour which has now been subsumed under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme.

As informed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the NCPCR has taken following steps in the direction of checking child abuse and child labour in recent years:

i.) Benches/Camps in Aspirational Districts on the issues of Child Rights:

NCPCR organized 55 Benches / Camps in aspirational districts of various States/UTs during 2019-20. The Commission also heard a number of grievances during its camps in the districts. Visits, Inspections and interaction with children were also done to understand their concerns.

ii.) Inter-departmental Review Meeting with the States/UTs: NCPCR organized 35 online meetings with all States/UTs during October–November 2020. The issue of maximum implementation of the provisions of the POCSO Act and awareness on child marriage cases was also covered.

iii.) 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 07.04.2022, to direct District Magistrates/Child Marriage Prohibition Officers of all districts to conduct activities, such as awareness programmes at village, panchayat, block, urban/ward, zila tehsil level; conduct meetings regarding awareness programmes on Child Marriage with Child Development Project Officer (CDPOs), Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Child Welfare Protection Officers (CWPO), Anganwadi Workers, and religious priests.

Every year the Commission also issues fresh directives to the concerned Departments of States/UTs to remain vigilant during Akshay Tritiya

iv.) 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.

v.) The NCPCR conducted Child Labour Rescue Operations for observing and collecting the evidences of incidences of child labour through structured visits on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour from 12th to 20th June, 2022 to commemorate the 75 years of independence of India under the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The rescue operations were undertaken at scrap and automobile markets across 41 districts. NCPCR officials along with the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights officers, local authorities from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate office, Labour Department officials, Child Welfare Committees, district child protection officer, district programme officer, Special Juvenile Police Units, Delhi State Legal Services Authority, Task Force Officers, Volunteers of National Service Scheme/ National Cadet Corps, Police officers and Local NGO personnel rescued children from the scrap & automobile markets. The rescue operations were conducted in 75 locations spanning over 41 districts in 18 States.

vi.) Prepared a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Rescue and Post Rescue of Child Labour.

vii.) Developed Management Information System (MIS) Portal to call for quarterly reports from authorities regarding violation of child rights under various Acts. Information regarding child labour cases is also reported on this portal by all States/UTs.

(b): As per the information received from the Ministry of labour, the number of child labourers/ beneficiaries rescued/ withdrawn from work, rehabilitated and mainstreamed under National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) in the last three years, State-wise, is at Annexure-I

(c) & (d): As per the information received from National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), NCPCR has received 19 complaints of child labour engaged in various establishments / institutions from the State of Rajasthan during the last three years.

NCPCR has taken cognizance under section 13(1)(j) of Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 on the complaints received on child labour. The Commission is also taking action on these cases to ensure that the children get compensation that they are entitled to and are rehabilitated and repatriated to their native States.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (B) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3397 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022 ASKED BY SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI INDICATING NO. OF CHILDREN / BENEFICIARIES, RESCUED / WITHDRAWN FROM WORK, REHABILITATED AND MAINSTREAMED UNDER NCLP SCHEME DURING 2017-18 TO 2021-22.

Sl. No.	State	2017-18	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-22*
1	Andhra Pradesh	203	778	1049	622	885
2	Assam	915	4562	6175	2800	NA
3	Bihar	2800	--	--	--	--
4	Gujarat	187	101	341	531	--
5	Haryana	NA	171	NA	NA	NA
6	Jharkhand	2014	1225	2940	3239	NA
7	Karnataka	679	763	363	275	263
8	Madhya Pradesh	11400	4910	4010	29179	2237
9	Maharashtra	5250	8122	9337	2031	2110
10	Odisha	NA	NA	6	495	15
11	Punjab	994	915	483	1307	4867
12	Rajasthan	105	NA	1712	NA	86
13	Tamil Nadu	2855	2534	3928	1456	2586
14	Telangana	2137	935	214	300	222
15	Uttar Pradesh	NA	8020	10371	9383	NA
16	West Bengal	17899	17137	13879	6671	NA
17	Uttarakhand	NA	NA	62	--	--
18	Nagaland	197	111	24	--	--
	Total	47,635	50,284	54,894	58,289	13,271

* Provisional
