

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5676
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025**

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

5676. SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:

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

- (a) the number and the nature of complaints registered with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights regarding the child abuse during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this regards; the number of persons found guilty so far and the action taken against them in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent abuse of children and women;
- (d) whether the Government has appointed nodal officers in the States in this regard, if so the details thereof;
- (e) the details of various schemes being run by the Government for the safety of women and children;
- (f) the details of the strategy formulated by the Union Government in consultation with the State Government to deal with the Crimes against children; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to prevent juvenile delinquency?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (g) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) receives complaints related to child abuse and takes appropriate action on a case-to-case basis. Upon receiving a complaint, the Commission forwards the matter to the relevant district administration or police authorities for necessary action, including inquiry as per the requirements of the case. Updates on the actions taken are subsequently shared with the Commission.

The number of cases registered under various categories involving child abuse—such as the under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, and such abuses as child Trafficking , child Labour etc over the last three years are placed at **Annexure**.

The determination of guilt and the awarding of punishment fall within the purview of the judiciary. Department of Justice is implementing a scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including Exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO cases. As per the information received from High Courts, as of 28.02.2025, **745 FTSCs** including **404 exclusive POCSO Courts** are functional in 30 States/UTs, which have disposed more than 3,13,000 cases.

The Government has enacted the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) to ensure the 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 proper care, protection, development, treatment and social re-integration. Among others, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 empowers the District Magistrate to function as the focal point for implementation of JJ Act, 2015 and decide the cases of adoption.

All the schemes implemented by the Ministry for welfare and development of women and children have been clubbed into three Umbrella Missions, viz. (1) Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition & health indicators in the country (2) Mission Shakti, for safety, protection and empowerment of women; and (3) Mission Vatsalya, for protection, care and welfare of children in difficult circumstances. Details of the schemes are as under:

- I. **Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0):** Under this mission, Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls have been reorganized into 3 primary sub-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:** The Government of India has launched 'Mission Shakti' – an integrated women empowerment programme as an umbrella scheme for the safety, security, and empowerment of women, to be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission period, i.e., up to FY 2025-26. It has been in effect across the country since 1st April 2022. Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes namely "Sambal" for safety and security of women and "Samarthya" for empowerment of women. The 'Sambal' has components of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nari Adalat. The 'Samarthya' has components of Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Palna and SANKALP: Hub for

Empowerment of Women (SANKALP: HEW). The objective of the components under Mission Shakti are as follows:

A. **SAMBAL:**

- i. **One Stop Centre (OSC)** provides integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces. It provides services like medical aid, legal aid and advice, **temporary shelter**, police assistance and psycho-social counselling to needy women.
- ii. **Women Helpline (WHL)** provides seamless emergency and non-emergency support and information service to women and girls across the country through **a 24/7 universal toll free number 181.**
- iii. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** aims to address declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum. The scheme is primarily focused on creating mindset and behavioural change towards the girl child by informing, influencing, motivating, engaging, and empowering all stakeholders.
- iv. **Nari Adalat** is an initiative aimed at empowering women and ensuring justice through services such as alternate dispute resolution, grievance redressal, counselling, and evidence-based decision-making. It addresses gender-based issues like domestic violence, dowry disputes, child custody, and workplace disparities. Nari Adalat is successfully piloted from 2023-24 in 50 Gram Panchayats (GPs) each in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir. Till 31st December 2024, in both the state of Assam and UT of Jammu & Kashmir the pilot State/UT a total 497 cases have been registered, of which 414 have been successfully resolved.

B. **SAMARTHYA:**

- i. **Shakti Sadan** - an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for women in distress situations including trafficked women. The number of beneficiaries under Shakti Sadan is 3,727 during the last three years.
- ii. **Sakhi Niwas** - to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women in urban, semi-urban and also in rural areas where employment opportunities for women exist. The number of beneficiaries under Sakhi Niwas 25,602 during the last three years.
- iii. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** - Centrally Sponsored Maternity Benefit Scheme under which cash incentives flow to the beneficiaries in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for the first child and the second girl child.
- iv. **Palna** aims to increase the participation of women in work force in the economy by providing quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children.

- v. **SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)** is an initiative, under the Samarthya sub-scheme of Mission Shakti which will function as a single window inter-sectoral convergence mechanism.
- III. **Mission Vatsalya:** Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya' through the State/ UT Governments on pre-defined cost sharing basis between the Centre and the State Governments to deliver various services for the Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL), which include both institutional and non-institutional care services. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the Mission Vatsalya scheme support, inter-alia, age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. Support under non-institutional care is provided by way of State sponsorship, foster care, adoption and after care to children in need of care and protection.

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

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. Section 4 of the Act prescribes rigorous imprisonment for a minimum of 20 years, which can extend to life imprisonment, for "Penetrative Sexual Assault". If the assault results in the death or causes the victim to be in a persistent vegetative state, Section 6 provides for the death penalty or life imprisonment. Section 8 outlines imprisonment for a minimum of three to five years for those found guilty of sexual assault, while Section 10 increases this to a minimum of five years for Aggravated Sexual Assault (A person can be charged with this offense in certain aggravating circumstances, such as if the rape occurs within a relationship of trust or authority, or if it leads to pregnancy, among others). Section 14 of the Act imposes imprisonment of up to seven years for using children for pornographic purposes. Additionally, the Act mandates special courts for speedy trials under Section 28; ensuring that the cases are handled with the utmost urgency and sensitivity, reflecting the law's zero-tolerance approach to crimes against children.

Further the POCSO Rules, 2020 were also notified to protect the children from exploitation and violence and sexual exploitation. Rule 3 provides that any institution housing children or coming in regular contact with children including schools, creches, sports academies or any other facility for Children must ensure police verification and background check on periodic basis, of every staff, teaching or non-teaching, regular or contractual, or any other person being an employee of such Institution coming in

contact with the child. Such Institution shall also ensure that periodic training is organized for sensitizing them on child safety and protection.

Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) from the financial year 2023-2024, has also introduced a scheme namely "Scheme for Care and Support to Victims under Sections 4 & 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012" from NIRBHAYA Fund to address the challenges faced by the minor pregnant girl child victims for implementation by the State/UT Governments.

ANNEXURE

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5676 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 RAISED BY SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH REGARDING NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

The number of cases registered under various categories involving child abuse over the last three years	
Years	Total
2022-2023	2485
2023-2024	3302
2024-2025	12404
