

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2214**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

**PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE**

2214. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact any law for the prevention of child abuse;
- (b) if so, the timeline by which the law would be enacted; and
- (c) if not, the various steps being taken by the Government to prevent child abuse?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (b): 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 already enacted The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. It defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.

(c): The POCSO Act, 2012 was amended in 2019 to introduce more stringent punishments including death penalty for committing sexual crimes on children, with a view to deter the perpetrators & prevent such crimes. The POCSO Act, 2012 also provides for establishment of Special Courts for the purpose of ensuring speedy trial.

Ministry of Women & Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) which is the primary legislation for ensuring the safety, security, dignity and well-being of children. The Act provides for protection of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) by catering to their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment and social re-integration. It defines standards of care and protection to secure the best interests of child. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules and Adoption Regulations, have also been promulgated under the Act. 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.

Section 2(14) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), lays down the detailed criteria under which any child is considered to be CNCP. Section 3 of JJ Act, 2015 lays down the general principles of care and protection of children, which serve as guiding principles for all stakeholders to ensure the safety, care and protection of children, prioritizing the best interests of the child at all times.

Further, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), as an apex statutory body, is mandated to monitor effective implementation of various Acts and Rules related to violations and deprivation of rights of children has undertaken the following steps to prevent child abuse viz:

- i. NCPCR inquiries into any/all complaints related to child abuse as per its mandate and in accordance with provisions contained in various child rights legislations or takes suo-motu cognizance of matters relating to deprivation and violation of child rights including child abuse based on information available in the media (print/electronic/social);
- ii. The Commission examines and reviews the safeguards provided under any law related to child abuse and recommends measures for their effective implementation from time to time;
- iii. It examines all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children, including those affected by terrorism, communal violence, natural disaster, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, prostitution, and torture;
- iv. It looks into matters relating to child abuse for children in need of special care and protection, such as children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, children without families, and children of prisoners;
- v. To ensure that children are not subjected to instances of abuse the Commission inspects or cause to be inspected any juvenile custodial home or any institution meant for children, and recommends remedial action thereof;
- vi. Undertakes and promote research, create awareness, and spread literacy about child abuse;

In accordance with above, the NCPCR takes various initiatives like issuing advisories, guidelines, awareness campaigns, conferences with stakeholders, continuous monitoring of pending complaints and for their faster resolution etc.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, 'Mission Vatsalya' through States/Union Territories (UTs) on predefined financial norms between the Centre and States/UTs to deliver various services for CNCP and CCL which include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care Services. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the scheme support, inter-alia, age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care and counselling. Under the Non-Institutional Care component, support is extended by way of Adoption, Foster Care, After Care and Sponsorship.

The scheme also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7x365) for children in difficult circumstances through Toll-free Child Helpline (1098) which is integrated with Toll-free Emergency Response Support System-112 (ERSS-112) Helpline of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has also introduced, the centrally funded scheme namely “Scheme for Care and Support to Victims under Section 4 & 6 of the POCSO Act, 2012” from NIRBHAYA fund to address the challenges faced by the minor pregnant girl child victims and fills the gaps in the existing schemes for implementation by the State/UT Governments. The main objective of this Scheme is to provide integrated support and assistance to minor pregnant girl child victims under one roof and to facilitate her immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services for long term rehabilitation in terms of access to education, police assistance, medical (also comprising maternity, neo- natal and infant care), psychological, mental health counselling, legal support, Non- Institutional Care support, place of stay in Child Care Institutions/Aftercare facilities and health insurance cover for the girl child victim and her new-born.

Further the various provisions in the new criminal laws enacted in 2023, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 replacing the Indian Penal Code 1860 and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 replacing the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provide effective deterrence against sexual abuse of children. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provides for more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of girls below the age of 12 years and imprisonment for the remainder of a person’s natural life in cases of rape of girls below 12 years. Additionally, Section 193 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita mandates completion of investigation in cases of rape and sexual assault on children within two months and trials are also to be completed in two months (Section 346 of BNSS, 2023).

Further, the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice has informed that, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Government of India finalized a scheme in August, 2019 for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious trial and disposal of cases pertaining to rape and POCSO Act, 2012 in a time-bound manner under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. As of 30.04.2025, 746 FTSCs including 405 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country, which have disposed of 3,25,364 cases since the inception of the Scheme till 30.04.2025. State-Wise details of functional FTSCs and cases disposed Under FTSCs as on 30.04.2025 is annexed.

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**ANNEXURE**

**ANNEXURE TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO-2214 FOR 01.08.2025 REGARDING 'PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE' INDICATING STATE-WISE DETAILS OF FUNCTIONAL FTSCs AND CASES DIPOSED UNDER FTSCs AS OF 30.04.2025**

S.NO.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme		
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs	ePOCSO	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	7183	7183
2	Assam	17	17	0	8507	8507
3	Bihar	46	46	0	16232	16232
4	Chandigarh	1	0	358	0	358
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	1246	4985	6231
6	Delhi	16	11	736	1881	2617
7	Goa	1	0	76	34	110
8	Gujarat	35	24	3211	12800	16011
9	Haryana	16	12	1972	5941	7913
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	558	781	1339
11	J&K	4	2	139	163	302
12	Jharkhand	22	16	2737	6212	8949
13	Karnataka	30	17	5230	8432	13662
14	Kerala	55	14	17776	7734	25510
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	56	4776	26565	31341
16	Maharashtra	4	1	8711	12008	20719
17	Manipur	2	0	180	0	180
18	Meghalaya	5	5	0	703	703
19	Mizoram	3	1	196	68	264
20	Nagaland	1	0	65	3	68
21	Odisha	44	23	6968	12652	19620
22	Puducherry	1	1	0	150	150
23	Punjab	12	3	2707	2439	5146
24	Rajasthan	45	30	5639	13130	18769
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	9918	9918
26	Telangana	36	0	8344	2731	11075
27	Tripura	3	1	242	229	471
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1891	0	1891
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	42895	46852	89747
30	West Bengal	7	7	0	378	378
31	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>116653</b>	<b>208711</b>	<b>325364</b>

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