GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE (DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3218

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 17th December, 2015

Cases of Crimes against Children

3218. SHRI B SRIRAMULU:

Will the Minister of LAW & JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a)the total number of cases relating to abuse/crimes against children pending in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate courts in the country, State/UT/court-wise;
- (b)the total number of such cases disposed of during each of the last three years and current year State/UT/court-wise;
- (c)whether the Government proposes to adopt victim-friendly trial procedures in such cases in order to protect the victims from aggressive questioning/character assassination by the prosecutors;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e)if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken/being taken In this regard?

A N S W E R MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. Sadananda Gowda)

(a) & (b): Based on the information available on the website of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a State/UT-wise statement indicating the number of cases of crimes against children in which trials were completed and the number of cases pending trial as at the end of the years 2012, 2013 ad 2014 is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 provides for constitution of Special Courts for disposal of cases of crimes against children. The Act lays down various measures for victim friendly trial procedure in cases involving crimes against children.

Section-33 of the Act provides for the following:-

- (i) The Special Public Prosecutor, or as the case may be, the counsel appearing for the accused shall, while recording the examination-in-chief, cross-examination or re-examination of the child, communicate the questions to be put to the child to the Special Court which shall in turn put those questions to the child.
- (ii) The Special Court may, if it considers necessary, permit frequent breaks for the child during the trial.
- (iii) The Special Court shall create a 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.
- (iv) The Special Court shall ensure that the child is not called repeatedly to testify in the court.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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-36 of the Act lays down that 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. The Special Court may record the statement of a child through video conferencing or by utilizing single visibility mirrors or curtains or any other device. Section-37of the Act lays down that 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-38 of the Act lays down that if a child has a mental or physical disability, the Special Court may take the assistance of a special educator or any person familiar with the manner of communication of the child or an expert in that field to record the evidence of the child. Model Guidelines have also been issued under Section-39 of the Act for use of Professionals and Experts.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3218 for answer on <u>17-12-2015.</u>

Annexure-I

Annexure-I CASES OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN								
S.No.	States	No. of Cases 2012		No. of Cases 2013		No. of Cases 2014		
								In which Trials Completed
		1	Andhra Pradesh	1471	3070	1138	3783	680
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5	181	0	232	4	116	
3	Assam	45	519	228	627	88	914	
4	Bihar	867	3290	513	4101	497	4564	
5	Chhattisgarh	1222	4068	1240	5318	1670	6045	
6	Goa	11	261	9	352	16	491	
7	Gujarat	466	5596	524	6577	450	7250	
8	Haryana	221	803	612	1146	1157	1505	
9	Himachal Pradesh	97	542	179	630	126	748	
10	Jammu & Kashmir	10	181	125	108	54	353	
11	Jharkhand	86	64	47	76	327	604	
12	Karnataka	253	887	383	1158	331	3026	
13	Kerala	387	3596	423	4593	431	6238	
14	Madhya Pradesh	3086	12159	4063	13866	5345	18080	
15	Maharashtra	1033	18007	994	21255	1319	25302	
16	Manipur	0	5	0	9	0	27	
17	Meghalaya	5	231	15	333	7	478	
18	Mizoram	42	101	37	121	53	146	
19	Nagaland	16	7	12	0	5	7	
20	Odisha	99	1144	192	1711	207	2840	
21	Punjab	289	875	632	969	495	864	
22	Rajasthan	770	3200	609	4065	786	5329	
23	Sikkim	38	87	99	27	34	61	
24	Tamil Nadu	299	1421	542	1700	961	2449	
25	Telangana	-	-	-	-	633	2507	
26	Tripura	36	328	22	409	65	460	
27	Uttar Pradesh	1911	11115	2040	16024	2751	25011	
28	Uttarakhand	57	171	82	205	83	417	
29	West Bengal	194	2466	222	3539	557	6315	

	Total (All-India)	13016	74375	14982	92934	19132	124428
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UNION TERRITORIES:

	Total (All-India)	13884	78342	15890	97602	20097	130925
	Total (UTs)	868	3967	908	4668	965	6497
36	Puducherry	17	91	4	103	0	39
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	1
34	Delhi	788	3520	803	4153	823	6021
33	Daman & Diu	3	14	7	12	3	11
32	D & N Haveli	8	39	6	39	0	44
31	Chandigarh	44	105	69	111	113	127
30	A & N Islands	8	198	19	250	26	254