

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2166
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2026

IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION SHAKTI IN ASSAM

2166. SHRI PARIMAL SUKLABAIDYA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of Mission Shakti, including the functioning of One Stop Centres, Women Helplines and other support services in Assam especially in Cachar district, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of women beneficiaries assisted through One Stop Centres and Women Helplines, along with the nature of assistance provided during the last three years in the said district;
- (c) the details of the measures being taken to prevent crimes against women and children, including awareness campaigns, rehabilitation services, child protection mechanisms and coordination with law enforcement agencies in the said district; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen One Stop Centres, Child Care Institutions, counselling services and emergency response systems in the said district and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security, rehabilitation and empowerment of women in the country. Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the needs of women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they become equal partners in fast paced and sustainable national development. This vision of 'Women led development' is essential for realising the goal of a developed India, or 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Mission Shakti aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. Mission Shakti comprises of two verticals 'sambal' for safety and security of women and 'Samarthya' for empowerment of women across the country.

One Stop Centre (OSC) and Women Helpline are the components of the Sambal vertical under the umbrella Mission Shakti. One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme for women is being implemented since 1st April, 2015. It provides integrated and immediate support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces across the country. One Stop Centres provide services such as medical aid, legal aid and advice, temporary shelter, police assistance and psycho-social counselling to needy women. As on date, 36 One Stop Centres are operational in the State of Assam, including one One Stop Centre in Cachar district. Since inception till 30th June, 2026, over 15.20 lakh women have been assisted through One Stop Centres in the country, including Assam. During the last three years, i.e. 2023-24 to 2025-26, over 22,497 women have been assisted in the State of Assam, including Cachar district through these OSCs.

Women Helpline (181) provides 24-hour toll-free telecommunication services to support women in both emergency and non-emergency situations. It provides assistance to women in distress through a single uniform number (181) by linking them with appropriate services such as ERSS-112, One Stop Centres, Child Helpline (1098), Police, Hospitals and Legal Services. Since inception till 30th June, 2026, over 1.04 crore women have been assisted in the country, including Assam. During the last three years, i.e. 2023-24 to 2025-26, over 37,361 women have been assisted in the State of Assam, including Cachar district.

The Central Government provides 100% financial assistance to States/UTs for appointment/hiring of 13 manpower resources, including 1 Centre Administrator, 2 Case Workers, 1 Psycho-social Counsellor, 1 Para Legal Personnel/Lawyer and 1 Para Medical Personnel at each One Stop Centre. The overall implementation of the One Stop Centre Scheme lies with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

The Ministry has also taken steps for standardizing capacity building sessions for the functionaries of One Stop Centres. This involves engaging expert resource persons from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development (SPNIWCD), National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for facilitating technical sessions on psycho-social counselling, gender-based violence case management, gender sensitization and dashboard operations to improve access to legal, medical and counselling services.

To strengthen convergence and ensure seamless access to support services, OSCs have been integrated with the Women Helpline (WHL), and so far, 657 OSCs have been integrated. Through this integration, women can be referred to appropriate services in a timely and coordinated manner.

Further, the Women Helpline has been integrated with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112), Child Helpline (1098) and other relevant service delivery mechanisms to facilitate prompt emergency response and effective inter-agency coordination. In addition, OSCs have also been integrated with Shakti Sadan to enable referral of women requiring long-term institutional support, rehabilitation and safe accommodation, thereby ensuring a continuum of care under the Mission Shakti framework.

Further, once in a year, the Programme Approval Board (PAB) monitors with States and UTs the progress of activities under the scheme and reviews status of achievement of objectives, effective delivery of services to women and children. Apart from this, officials of the Ministry continuously review the scheme through meetings, video conferencing and by making field visits to States/UTs from time to time. The Ministry has also developed the Mission Shakti Dashboard, which facilitates real-time tracking of functioning of the Schemes under the Mission Shakti at the district, State, and National levels.

Two third party evaluations of the schemes of the Ministry, including the Mission Shakti Umbrella Scheme have been conducted in 2020 and again in 2025 through NITI Aayog. The studies have found the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the scheme as satisfactory.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements various measures for the prevention of crimes against children through legislative, institutional and awareness-based interventions. Section 43 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 mandates the Central and State Governments to undertake widespread awareness campaigns through print, electronic and digital media and to provide periodic training to stakeholders for effective implementation of the Act. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Rules, 2020 further provide for preparation and dissemination of age-appropriate educational material, awareness on child safety, reporting mechanisms including Child Helpline 1098, and periodic police verification and sensitization of personnel working with children.

Under Mission Vatsalya, financial and technical assistance is provided to States and Union Territories for awareness generation, advocacy, community outreach and capacity-building on child protection issues including child sexual abuse, child trafficking, child marriage, child labour, online safety and other forms of violence against children. Regular training and sensitization programmes are conducted for Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), Child Care Institutions (CCIs), Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) and other stakeholders to strengthen child protection mechanisms and coordination with law enforcement agencies.

The Ministry has also undertaken awareness campaigns on the provisions of the POCSO Act through short films, audio-visual material, posters and regional language IEC content for wider outreach. In addition, zonal conferences, dissemination workshops, regional symposiums and

sensitization programmes are organized under Mission Vatsalya to strengthen institutional coordination among State Governments, Police, Child Protection Functionaries and other stakeholders.

Further, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 envisages a coordinated child protection framework, wherein District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) function as district-level coordinating agencies and State Child Protection Societies (SCPSs) oversee implementation at the State level. Regular monitoring, review meetings, inspections and capacity-building initiatives are undertaken to strengthen convergence among concerned departments and ensure effective protection and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is mandated to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective enshrined in the constitution of India and the UN convention of the rights of the child (UNCRC). It has been organizing the “Baal Taskari Se Azaadi” campaign as a comprehensive national initiative for prevention, rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked children.

Following are features of campaign:-

- i) Three phases of the campaign have covered 75, 100 and 200 bordering and adjoining districts respectively.
- ii) It is a campaign which is at district level awareness-cum-sensitisation workshops involving District Administration, Police, AHTUs, CWCs, DCPUs, Labour and Education Departments, Railway authorities, NGOs and Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- iii) School-based awareness activities and community meetings are organised to educate children, parents and teachers on trafficking indicators, safe migration and reporting mechanisms, including door-to-door outreach in identified hotspots in collaboration with local authorities and NGOs.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely ‘Mission Vatsalya’, through the State/ UT Governments to deliver various services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) as well as Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). These services include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care. 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. Under non-institutional care, support is provided to the children through Sponsorship, Foster Care, Adoption and After Care. The scheme also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7x365) for children in difficult circumstances through Child Helpline (1098) which is integrated with Emergency Response Support System-112 (ERSS-112) Helpline of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Further, this Ministry has developed an integrated unified Mission Vatsalya Portal in consultation and coordination with States and UTs. The TrackChild portal for Missing/Found Children, and

Khoya-Paya application for Missing/Sighted Children have been integrated with this unified Mission Vatsalya Portal. The TrackChild module is implemented with support and involvement of various stakeholders namely Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, State Governments and UT Administrations, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, National Legal Services Authority, etc. Standard operating procedure have been issued in this regard. Advisories have also been issued to all States and UTs including Director General of Police of all States & UTs and other stakeholders regarding implementation of TrackChild. It is also integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network Systems (CCTNS) of the Ministry of Home Affairs which allows interoperability in terms of matching of FIRs of missing children with data base of TrackChild to trace and match missing children by the State and UT police concerned. Further, through Khoya Paya module any citizen can report about any missing or sighted child.
