

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4670
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS ON THE CHILD
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is the signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- (b) if so, the rights of the child accepted/recognised under the convention;
- (c) the schemes and programmes launched to secure the rights of child;
- (d) whether the Committee on Rights of the Child concluded its three week winter session in January, 2000;
- (e) if so, the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Government of India acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 11th December, 1992.

The rights under the Convention in brief are as follows:

1. Right of the child to preserve his identity, nationality, name, family relations.
2. A child shall not be separated from his parents.
3. Right to express views.
4. Right to freedom of expression, subject to certain restrictions.
5. Right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
6. Rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
7. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference.
8. Right of the child to have access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources.
9. Right to be protected from physical and mental violence and exploitation.
10. Right of the disabled child to special care and attention.
11. Right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.
12. Right of the child to benefit from social security.
13. Right of every child to a standard of living for his physical, mental and moral development.
14. Right of the child to education.
15. Right of the child to rest and leisure.
16. Right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing in hazardous work.

17. Protection of children from illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
18. Protection of the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and from abduction, sale or trafficking.
19. Protection of the child from all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.
20. No child should be subjected to torture or deprived of his liberty.

(c) The different Ministries and Departments of the Government of India are implementing various Schemes for the benefit of the children in the country, e.g. Integrated Child Development Services by the Department of Women & Child Development, District Primary Education Programme by the Department of Education, Reproductive Child Health Programme by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Integrated Programme for Street Children by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, etc.

(d) The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child discussed the India Country Report at its 23rd session in Geneva on 11- 12 January, 2000.

(e) The major concluding observations of the UN Committee on the CRC are as under:

1. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the transparent process followed in the formulation of the Report, the detailed information provided and the broad range of constitutional and legislative procedures existing in India. It also showed appreciation of the active participation of NGOs and grass-root organisations in public affairs and the efforts of the States regarding education and literacy.
2. The Committee noted the constraints faced on account of population growth and extreme poverty.
3. The Committee has asked for the provision of adequate resources, strengthening of the capacity and effectiveness of organisations for the protection of human rights, women rights, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
4. The Committee has asked for collection of disaggregated data of all persons under the age of 18 years especially of the most vulnerable groups.
5. Greater dissemination of CRC amongst the general public and especially children has also been requested by the Committee.

(f) Most of the observations made by the UN Committee on CRC as referred in part(e) above were already expressed in the Government response submitted in December, 1999. Government is committed to further strengthening the implementation of the CRC.