

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3727
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
DESTITUTE CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the destitute children in the country are subjected to various types of sexual abuses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect and rehabilitate these children and also to bring them into the mainstream of the society?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a)&(b): As per the Study on Child Abuse in India conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2007, different categories of children who reported sexual abuse is as under:

Categories of children Percentage of children

Child in family environment not going to school	53.18
Children in schools	49.92
Children at work	61.61
Children on Streets	54.51
Children in institutional care	47.08

Of these, children at work and children on the streets are most likely to be destitute.

(c): To prevent sexual abuse of children, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March 2011, titled 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, 2011' which provides for stringent punishment to offenders. The Rajya Sabha referred the Bill to Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources Development for examination and report. The Committee has submitted its 240th Report on the 21.12.2011.

For rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstances, including street and working children, the Government, in the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). Under ICPS financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administration for setting up and maintenance of Children's Homes as well as Open Shelters in Urban and Semi-Urban Areas for providing facilities and services such as age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, bridge education, linkages to the National Open School Programme (NOSP), health care, counseling etc.

Under ICPS financial assistance is also provided to State Governments/UT Administrations for, inter-alia, after care services for a period of three years for such children who leave the homes, to help sustain them during the transition from institutional to independent life. The services include housing facilities, vocational training, counseling and assistance to get employment etc.