

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:385

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012

DISAPPEARANCE OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

McLeod Smt. Ingrid;Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

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

(a) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)/National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken note of children and women missing mysteriously from the children homes/shelter homes in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the surprise raids conducted by concerned agencies in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the reasons behind such mysterious disappearances of children and women from these homes have been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect, promote and defend the rights of children and women residing in children homes/shelter homes in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 385 FOR 07.09.2012 REGARDING DISAPPEARANCE OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN BY SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH AND SMT. INGRID MCLEOD

(a) & (b): The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has received 04 cases of children reportedly missing from children homes/shelter homes during the recent past. NCPCR has reported one instance of missing children each in 2009 and 2010 and two cases in 2012.

NCPCR received a complaint dated 5.3.2010 regarding missing of five children from Good News Children Home, Ramsagar Chowk, Paralakhemundi, Odisha. The matter was taken up with the State Government on 3.5.2010, which in turn informed that the news of missing children was not true.

Another complaint was received by NCPCR on 8.1.2010 regarding missing of two children from Ashakiran Children Home at Avantika, Rohini, New Delhi. An enquiry report in the matter was sought by NCPCR from Director (Social Welfare), Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on 9.3.2010. The enquiry report revealed that two mentally challenged children escaped from the said home on 11.8.2009 and 15.9.2009.

NCPCR took cognizance of a news item published in Times of India on 4.6.2012 regarding missing of a girl child on 30.5.2012 from Balkunj Shelter Home, Chachharauli, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. The matter was taken up with Government of Haryana on 04.06.2012 by NCPCR, who informed that the missing girl was traced out from Faridabad on 7.7.2012 and handed over to her parents.

Another complaint was received by NCPCR on 18.7.2012 regarding the missing of four children from SOS children village, Rajpura, Patiala District who were recovered from Bhatinda. NCPCR sought a report from Deputy Commissioner, Patiala on 23.7.2012 and also from Additional Deputy Commissioner on 31.8.2012 in the matter.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) does not maintain data of missing children and women.

(c) & (d): Systemic weaknesses in terms of infrastructure, personnel, medical facilities and lack of services including psychological counselling of the children have been broadly pointed out by the NCPCR and the district authorities in the Delhi and Haryana cases.

(e): Section 34 (3) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (JJ Act) provides for mandatory registration of all Child Care Institutions (CCIs) housing children in need of care and protection with the intent of enforcing minimum standards of care for the services provided for children in these Homes.

To ensure that children in all the Homes receive the best of care, and are not subject to abuse and neglect, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been strongly urging the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations from time to time to identify

and register all CCIs under the JJ Act and set up functional inspection committees, where not available. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations, inter-alia, for setting up and maintenance of Homes, including Children's/Shelter Homes under the JJ Act.

Government is also implementing two schemes on shelter homes for women, namely Swadhar and Short Stay Home. There is also a comprehensive scheme on providing shelter to women and children who are victims of trafficking, viz. Ujjawala. These schemes provide for food, shelter and clothing for the inmates, counseling, clinical and legal support for women and children in such homes who are in need of such interventions and vocational training for economic rehabilitation of such women.