

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013
JUVENILE HOMES
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the inmates of many juvenile homes in the country are addicted to drugs and are often sexually abused;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has ever directed the State Governments to conduct health check-up of these inmates;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to run these juvenile homes efficiently?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): As per information received from National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), there have been some cases of sexual abuse of children in the Homes registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 [JJ Act]. As regards drug addiction among inmates of juvenile Homes, the JJ Act provides for in-patient treatment of children who are addicted to any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance, in Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts being run under 'Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse and for Social Defence Services' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment or any other corresponding scheme for the time being in force. Further, Rule 45 of the Central Model Rules notified under the JJ Act already prescribes the detailed procedures for medical care and health check-up of inmates of juvenile Homes.

(d): Section 34 (3) of the 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, under the Act and Rules there-under, for the services provided for children in these Homes. The JJ Act and Central Model Rules there-under provide for mechanisms for stringent monitoring of quality of services in the Homes, including Observation/Special Homes, through Inspection Committees set up by the State Government at State, district and city levels and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs). Further, the Rules provide for setting up of Children's Committees in every institution which are, inter-alia, also encouraged to report incidents of abuse and exploitation, if any. Besides, Rule 60 of the Model Rules framed under the JJ Act also prescribes comprehensive measures to respond in case any kind of abuse, including sexual abuse, neglect and maltreatment is noticed in the CCI.

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 pursuing with the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to identify and register all CCIs under the JJ Act and set up functional inspection committees, as prescribed under the JJ Act, where not available.

To improve the condition of the Homes and ensure well being of the children the Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing financial assistance to the State Governments/ UT Administrations under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme for setting up, upgradation and maintenance of various types of Homes, including Observation Homes and Special Homes for children in conflict with law. The Scheme also provides for training and capacity building of all child protection personnel, including functionaries in the Homes, so that they are sensitised and equipped to take care of the well-being of the children in their care.