

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:840
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
CONDITION OF CHILDREN
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has given a bad picture relating to the fate of children in the country in its report on status of children especially girls in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the juvenile crimes are increasing in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to address such issues and ensure healthy, growth of children in the country, and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation brought out a publication titled 'Children in India 2012 - A Statistical Appraisal' last year, which is a compilation of data on the status of child at various fronts captured in Census 2001, 2011, National Family Health Survey [NFHS - 3 (2005-06)], Annual Health Survey (AHS) in 8 Empowered Action Group States and Assam (2010-11) and Coverage Evaluation Survey, 2009 (UNICEF & Government of India), District Level Household Survey [DLHS - 3 (2007-08)], Statistics of School Education 2009-10 of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Sample Registration System in 2010, Crime in India 2011 of National Crime Records Bureau etc..

Referring the above sources of data, the said Report highlights some of the major indicators given below:

- (i) Decline in child sex ratio (0 – 6 years) in the total population from 2001 to 2011 (from 945 in 2001 to 914 in 2011) (Source : Census 2011)
- (ii) The Sample Registration System, in 2010, estimated that, out of total deaths reported, 18.4 % are deaths of children of 0 – 4 years (14.5 % are infant deaths (<1 years and 3.9 % deaths of 1 – 4 years) and 2.7 % deaths pertained to children of 5 – 14 years. Female infants experienced a higher mortality rate than male infants in all major states.
- (iii) Malnutrition is more prevalent among children in the higher birth order category [Source : NFHS – 3 (2005-06)]
- (iv) Among male and female children (6 – 59 months) the percentage of children with any anaemia was reported as 69 % and 69.9 % respectively. Severe anaemia was reported for 3.2 % male children and 2.7 % female children [NFHS – 3 (2005-06)].
- (v) Increase in child labour (from 11.28 million in 1991 to 12.66 million in 2001) [Source : Census, 2001]
- (vi) Number of cases of Crimes against Children (IPC) in the country reported a 24% increase from the previous year with a total of 33,098 cases against Children reported in the country during 2011 as compared to 26,694 cases during 2010. There were 24,201 cases in 2009. [Source : Crime in India 2011, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)]
- (vii) The Juvenile Crimes (under IPC) in 2011 have increased by 10.5 % over 2010 as 22,740 IPC crimes by Juveniles were registered during 2010 which increased to 25,125 cases in 2011. Major juvenile crimes were under 'Theft' (21.17 %), Hurt (16.3%) and Burglary (10.38 %) in 2011. The number of cases for the year 2009 was 23,926. [Source : Crime in India 2011, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)].

(e) & (f): The Government is implementing a number of child centric policies addressing the issues of Child Survival, Child Development and Child Protection. The important among them are National Policy for Children 1974, National Policy on Education, 1986, National Policy on Child Labour, 1987, National Nutrition Policy, 1993, National Population Policy, 2000, National Health Policy, 2002, National Charter for Children (NCC), 2003, National Plan of Action for Children (NPA), 2005.

The National Policy for children adopted on 22nd August, 1974 has been under review and five Regional Consultations between September, 2010 and January, 2011 and a National Consultation on 19th December, 2011 were held to discuss draft working paper on Policy of Children. A draft National Policy for Children, 2012 has been prepared and comments have been invited by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministries of Home Affairs and Labour and Employment, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Commission for Women (NCW) is in the process of formulating an Integrated National Plan of Action (INPA) to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with Special Focus on Children and Women. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 (PCMA) was enacted and came into force on 1st November, 2007 which makes child marriage an offence and prescribes punishment for those conducting / abetting / promoting / permitting / solemnizing child marriage. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, 2011 with a main aim to address sexual abuse and exploitation of children, including child pornography has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. The Government has also set up National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on 5th March, 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 to protect, promote and defend child rights in the country.

The Government also implements various important schemes such as Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls - SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), Ujjawala – a comprehensive scheme for combating trafficking, Dhanlakshmi – conditional cash transfer for girl child with insurance cover, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission etc.

The Government approved the proposal for Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme with an over-all budget allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during 12th Five Year Plan. The Administrative Approvals in this regard have since been issued to the States/UTs. The key features of Strengthened and Restructured ICDS inter-alia include addressing the gaps and challenges with (a) special focus on children under 3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers; (b) strengthening and repackaging of services including, care and nutrition counseling services and care of severely underweight children; improving Supplementary Nutrition Programme including cost revision to put ICDS in a mission mode etc.

The Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, enacted in 2000, is the primary law in the country relating to welfare of juveniles in conflict with law as well as children in need of care and protection. The JJ Act was amended, in 2006, to make it more effective by providing time-lines for setting up of Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees and compulsory registration of Child Care Institutions, etc. To encourage quicker establishment of structures and procedures under the Act, the Ministry of Women & Child Development introduced, in 2009-10, a comprehensive scheme, namely, the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) under which financial and technical support is provided to the State Governments/ UT Administrations. ICPS brings several existing child protection programmes, under one umbrella, with improved norms. These include,

(i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice;

(ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; and

(iii) Scheme for Assistance to Homes [Shishu Greh] to promote In-country Adoption. A number of new initiatives have also been incorporated, such as dedicated service delivery structures at State and district levels, child tracking system, sponsorship, fostercare etc. Childline is a 24-hour toll free emergency outreach telephone service (1098) for children in distress, being run by the Ministry through a mother NGO - Childline India Foundation (CIF). The service is now available in 265 cities and likely to start in 17 more cities / districts this year, bringing the total to 282.

Several measures are being under taken to check the declining sex ratio which include discouraging the use of sex selection techniques as well as encouraging and rewarding the girl child. While the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 is being administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken a number of initiatives to enhance the status of girl child. January 24th has been declared as National Girl Child Day, since 2009. Budget allocations have also been made to launch the new schemes of 'Girl Child Specific District Plan of Action' and Scheme for Holistic Development of Adolescent Boys – Saksham, Women's Help Line. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also proposing an Umbrella scheme for protection and development of women with SWADHAR Greh, National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), One Stop Crisis Centre and Restorative Justice for Rape Victims as components during 12th Plan.