

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2413
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
NATIONAL POLICY ON CHILDREN .
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil;Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any National Policy on Children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has invited comments from various stakeholders in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether instances of gross violation of child rights in various parts of the country have come to/brought to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State/U.T-wise for the above period along with the action taken by the Government to protect the child rights and to punish the persons found involved in violation of child rights?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government has adopted a National Policy for Children, 2013 on 26th April, 2013. The Policy reaffirms the Government's commitment to the realisation of the rights of all children in the country.

(c) & (d): The new Policy for Children is an outcome of extensive consultations at the regional and national level with various stakeholders. Regional consultations were held between September 2010 and January 2011 with State Governments, civil society organizations, statutory commissions, autonomous organizations and experts. A national consultation was held in Delhi in December 2011 with key Central Ministries, State Governments, Institutions, civil society organizations and experts. The draft Policy was also placed on the website of the Ministry for inviting comments from the general public.

(e) & (f): As reported by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), 6792 cases of child rights violations have come to the notice of NCPCR over the last three years (including current year) from various parts of the country. The State/U.T-wise details are enclosed as Annexure. The action has been taken by NCPCR as per the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The Government has taken several legal and administrative steps to address the issue of violations of child rights. The key steps taken are as under:

i) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, as the principal legislation for the protection of children. The Act was amended in 2006 to ensure better care and protection for children and aims to enhance the protective environment for vulnerable, neglected and abused children by providing them care and protection.

ii) A special law "The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012" to protect all children under the age of 18 years from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography came into force on 14th November, 2012.

iii) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was established in 2007, under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. This is a major step towards the protection of rights of children in the country.

iv) The Child Labour (Regulation and Prohibition) Act, 1986, prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in notified hazardous occupations and processes.

v) Adoption of the Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The Act provides for free and compulsory education to all children between 6-14 years of age.

vi) Implementation of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for children in difficult circumstances and for vulnerable children since 2009.

vii) A web-based Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) to make the process of adoption more transparent; and guidelines for in-country and inter-country adoption to regulate and monitor all adoption programmes.

