

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:131

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ;Shekhawat Shri Gopal Singh

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of juvenile courts in the country and the number of cases filed in such courts, State / UT-wise;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to set up more such courts in the country and if so, the details thereof; State / UT-wise;
- (c) whether India's first child witness courtroom, designed to present friendly image of courts for child witnesses, was opened recently and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the legal reforms contemplated, if any, by the Government to strengthen the juvenile justice system in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.131 FOR ANSWER ON 14TH AUGUST, 2013.

(a) to (d) A Statement giving the number of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) in the country, as furnished by Ministry of Women and Child Development, is at Annex-I. As per data of National Crime Record Bureau, a Statement on disposal of juveniles apprehended under Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special & Local Laws (SLL) and sent to Juvenile Justice Boards in the year 2012 is enclosed at Annex - II.

As per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (JJ Act), State Governments / UT Administrations are required to constitute, for every district, one or more Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and ensure their effective functioning as per the procedures prescribed under the JJ Act and Rules made there-under.

The first Child Witness Court Room in Delhi was inaugurated on 16th September, 2012 at Karkardooma Court Complex. It aims to ensure compliance with child friendly procedure for investigation, trial and examination as per directives in judicial pronouncements as well as with the recently enacted provisions of protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

The JJ Act was amended in 2006 to strengthen the existing mechanisms which, inter alia, include (i) providing timelines for setting up of statutory structures and producing a child before the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), (ii) establishing JJ Act as the primary law for children in need of care and protection and juveniles in conflict with law and (iii) enhancing provisions for adoption and expanding the list of children in need of care and protection to include surrendered children, working children, street children and children found begging, etc. Further in 2010, amendments were made to remove discriminatory references against children affected by leprosy and other diseases.

In the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held in New Delhi on 07th April, 2013, the State Governments have been requested to take steps to improve the conditions of various Homes contemplated under the JJ Act. The State Governments have also been asked to make earnest endeavours to establish Juvenile Justice Boards in the districts, where they are yet to be set up and establish Child Welfare Committees for the rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection and to encourage the adoption process.