

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1075

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

SPECIAL LAW TO DEAL WITH CRIMES AGAINST MINORS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether special courts have been set up to deal with crimes against minors ever since the law on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) came into existence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of pendency of cases involving crimes against minors during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to set up special courts for speedy trials of such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)&(b): The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 along with rules came into effect from 14th November, 2012. Section 28 of the POCSO Act specifies that the State Government shall designate for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under the Act. The Section also states that if a Court of Session is already notified as a children's court under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, then such court shall be deemed to be a Special Court to try offences under the POCSO Act, 2012. As per information available 19 States/Union Territories have designated Special Courts /Children's Court to try offences under the Act.

(c): State-wise number of cases involving crimes against minors pending trial at the end of 2010, 2011 and 2012 is enclosed as Annex.

(d): Government has requested all the State Governments/Union Territories to expedite setting up of Special/Children's courts.