

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:818

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015

JUVENILE HOMES

Chaudhary Shri C.R.;Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Sampath Shri Anirudhan;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

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

- (a) the number of juvenile homes functioning in the country, as on date, State/UT- wise along with the number of juveniles sent to such homes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of pathetic conditions of such homes and lack deprivation of basic facilities/infrastructure therein and involvement of inmates of these homes in criminal activities/violence, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the cases of sexual assault/exploitation/torture/ill-treatment of children in such homes have come to the notice of the Government during the said period, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the number of children escaped from such homes across the country during the said period, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to bring back such escaped children and to check recurrence of such incidents;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 keeping in view the involvement of children in serious crimes in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the Act is likely to be amended; and
- (f) the other remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard and to improve the conditions of juvenile homes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

- (a) & (b): The State/UT-wise number of Observation Homes and Special Homes as on date which are getting financial assistance under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is at Annexure-I. No data is maintained centrally regarding number of juveniles sent to such Homes during the last three year and current year. To improve the quality of services in Homes and maintain the standards of care stipulated in the Central Model Rules under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up, upgradation and maintenance of various types of Homes, including Special Homes and Observation Homes under the ICPS. The Rules inter-alia specify standards for physical infrastructure, clothing, bedding, nutrition & diet, as well as rehabilitation measures such as education, vocational training, counselling etc. The State Governments/UT Administrations are required to ensure, through regular inspection and monitoring, that the institutions are run as per the provisions of the Act and the Rules framed there-under.
- (c): As per National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), 69 complaints of sexual abuse/sexual exploitation and other irregularities were received by them in Child Care Institutions during the said period. State/UT-wise details of complaints received in Child Care Institutions is at Annexure-II.
- (d): No such data is maintained centrally.
- (e): The Government has introduced the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014 in the Parliament. The Bill proposes modifications in the process associated with the treatment of heinous offences committed by children in the age group of 16-18 years. In such cases, the Juvenile Justice Board may transfer the proceedings to a Children's Court, which is a Court of Session. The Children's Court will conduct an assessment of the physical and mental status, capacity of the child to commit such offence, ability of child to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which the offence was committed. During the process of inquiry, trial and after trial, the child would be kept in a place of safety and not in a jail. Under no circumstances the sentence passed by the Court can be life imprisonment or death. No definite time frame can be given by which the Act is likely to be amended.
- (f): The Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and Central Model Rules, 2007 framed thereunder provide for several measures to improve conditions of various types of homes including Observation Homes and Special Homes, these include: mandatory registration of institutions under the JJ Act to enforce minimum standards of care and services to be provided to children , stringent monitoring by Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and inspection committees set up by the State Government at

state, district and city level, and social auditing for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of homes to prevent any abuse or exploitation of children. The Central Model Rules also provide for setting up of Management Committee and Children's Committee in every institution for monitoring functioning of Homes. The Ministry has been requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to ensure registration of various types of homes under JJ Act.