

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
NEW LEGISLATION ON JUVENILE
Noor Smt. Mausam

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

- (a) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters to reduce the age of juvenile offenders, in the context of heinous crime committed by them recently;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with other amendments proposed in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000;
- (c) whether consultations with all the stakeholders including States have been underway/have been concluded and if so, the details thereof; and;
- (d) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 346 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2014 RAISED BY SHRIMATI MAUSAMNOOR REGARDING 'NEW LEGISLATION ON JUVENILE'

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Special provisions are proposed to be made to address heinous offences committed by children above the age of 16 years, which will act as a deterrent for child offenders committing such crimes and will also protect the rights of victim to justice.

The other amendments proposed inter-alia include:

- (i) Bringing in more clarity in the role and procedures of statutory structures such as Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards;
- (ii) Strengthening punitive measures for offences committed against children and including new offences such as corporal punishment, ragging and using child for vending, peddling, carrying, supplying or smuggling any intoxicating liquor, narcotic drug or psychotropic substance;
- (iii) Streamlining and strengthening measures for adoption including providing statutory status to the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA);
- (iv) Making it mandatory for all child care institutions to register and stringent penalty in case of non-compliance.

(c): Three regional consultations and a national consultation was held with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, representatives of the civil society and other stake-holders in 2011, to seek their views and suggestions for amendments in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ Act), 2000.

A comprehensive Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014, to repeal and re-enact the existing JJ Act, 2000 was drafted and placed on the website of the Ministry on 18th June, 2014 for inviting comments from civil society and individuals. The draft Bill was also sent to all State Governments/UT Administrations and National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for their comments.

(d): The draft Bill at this stage has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultation. After the approval of the Cabinet, the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament.