

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1050
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
CHILD ABUSE
Nath Shri Chand

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

- (a) whether incidents of child abuse particularly sexual abuse involving parents/close relatives have increased in the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether any survey/study has been conducted in this regard and a detailed module designed especially for educating the people regarding existing provisions and standard operating procedures to ensure prevention of such abuse and if so, the details along with findings thereof; and
- (d) whether such modules have been circulated to all the States, if so, the response thereon, if not the reasons therefor and the other remedial steps taken/likely to be taken in this regard

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The data on number of cases of child abuse is maintained by National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs in its publication "Crime in India" under the heading crime against children. The latest report is available for the year 2013. According to the report, a total of 33098,38172 and 58224 cases of crime against children were reported in the country during 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. As per data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of cases of crime against children which includes violence, sexual violence and abuse has increased over the years. However, no separate data involving parents/close relatives involved in cases of child abuse is maintained.

(c) & (d): No survey/study involving parents close relatives in cases of child abuse has been conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Till recent past various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) were used to deal with sexual offences against children as the law did not make a distinction between an adult and a child. Therefore, keeping in view the need of the time, to deal with the cases of child sexual abuse in more effective manner, the Government has enacted a special law "Protection of Children from sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012" which has come into effect from 14th November, 2012. This law provides protection to all children under the age of 18 years from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. Section 39 of the Act requires the State Governments to prepare guidelines for use of NGOs, professional and experts or persons to be associated with the pre-trial and trial stage to assist the child. On request from several State Governments, Model Guidelines were developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and sent to all the State Governments/UT Administrations in September, 2013, which can be adopted or adapted by them for better implementation of the said Act. Some of the State Governments/UTs have formulated these guidelines. Further, this Ministry conducted five regional conferences to spread awareness on the provisions of the special law – Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 which covered all the State and UTs.. As the State Governments/UT Administrations and other stakeholders have a key role in the effective implementation of the Act, the States/UTs were advised to take forward this initiative and undertake more measures to spread awareness on the provisions of the Act.