

memory of this great astrophysicist, a world class Astrophysical , institute in his name should be established by the Government of India at Khagol and it should be an advance centre of learning and research. It will always remind us of this great ancient scientist.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member .

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : सर, मैं स्वयं को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : सर, मैं स्वयं को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, I am laying it on the Table of the House. I don't want to waste your precious time. It is all right .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): So, you are laying it on the Table.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Yes; Sir, I am laying it on the Table.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay thank you very much. That is laid on the Table.

**Demand to take effective steps to check sexual abuse
of children in the country**

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): The "Study on Child Abuse: India 2007" conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development acknowledges that child sex abuse takes place in schools. One out of two children in schools have faced sexual abuse. And overall, more boys than girls face various forms of sexual abuse ranging from inappropriate touch, exposure to pornography or violent sexual assault.

What is worrisome is that the perpetrators are not necessarily adults. "The abuser could be from the peer group or an older student."

A study on child abuse in Kolkata found that four out of ten boys faced sexual harassment in schools.

Similar study on Class XI students of schools in Chennai, it found that one out of two boys had been abused as compared to two out of five girls.

It has been proved that boys are equally, if not more, vulnerable to sexual abuse as girls. 48 per cent boys and 35 per cent girls faced sexual abuse. The national study found that the child abuse gained momentum at the age of ten and peaked between 12 to 15.

The degree of abuse varies according to age. In the upper school (class IX to XII), it could turn into homosexuality or forced sex. 'Boys get very scared and secretive.

Hence cases are rarely reported. Trial process is long drawn and conviction rate negligible.

In view of above horrid scenario of child abuse, I would urge the Ministry of Women and Child Development to take urgent steps to save Indian Childhood.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at thirty-one minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 23rd July, 2009.