

(b) to (d) Prior to 2009-10, the Government, in the Ministry of Women and Child Development was implementing three Schemes for rehabilitation of such children, namely, (i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice; (ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; and (iii) Scheme for Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) to Promote In-Country Adoption. The Schemes were reviewed and it was *inter alia* found that the quality of infrastructure & services provided to children needed improvement; resources allocated were not adequate etc. To address the gaps identified, the Government, in the Ministry of Women and Child Development introduced a centrally sponsored scheme, namely, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in 2009-10 by merging the components of these three Schemes with enhanced financial norms and adding new interventions such as dedicated service delivery structure at various levels.

Medical tourism under MDA Scheme

1847. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has included Medical Tourism under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance granted to the Medical Tourism Service Providers (MTSP) in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has included Medical Tourism under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme in February 2009. Financial support under the MDA Scheme is provided to approved Medical Tourism Service Providers (MTSP) *i.e.* Representatives of Hospitals accredited by Joint Commission International Accredited Hospitals (JCI) and National Accreditation Board of Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) and Medical Tourism facilitators (Travel Agents/Tour Operators approved by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India) engaged in Medical Tourism. The MDA assistance is provided for participation in approved Medical Tourism fairs/conferences and allied road shows. During the year 2010-11, an amount of Rs. 12.48 lakh was released to 10 Medical Tourism Service Providers and during the current year as on 31.10.2011, an amount of Rs.2.75 lakh has been released to two Medical Tourism Service Providers.

Retirement age for Anganwadi workers and helpers

1848. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed the age for retirement for the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers;

(b) if so, the details of schemes formulated by Government to compensate the Anganwadi employees being retired; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Anganwadi Workers(AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers(AWHs) are honorary workers and not government employees. Besides, the ICDS Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the State Govts./UTs. There are no guidelines issued by the Government stipulating retirement age for AWWs and AWHs. However, their honorary services can be discontinued on attainment of a particular age. The issue of fixing the upper age limit has been left to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take an appropriate view in the matter.

Recommendation on child protection

1849. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government held a consultation with civil society organisations on child protection;

(b) if so, the details thereof of the major recommendations/findings of the meeting;

(c) whether Government is looking to implement any of the recommendations made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The Government, in the Ministry of Women and Child Development have been from time to time, holding consultations with the civil society organisations on various issues, including child protection. Recommendations given in the consultations held in the recent past included suggestions for Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, 2011,