

Total Sanitation Campaign, particularly, at the district and village levels (c) models providing flexibility at local levels for community participation (d) strengthening package of service and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (e) improving Supplementary Nutrition Programme including cost indexation (f) care and nutrition counseling services (g) adequate care of severely underweight children (h) allocating adequate financial resource and to put ICDS in a mission mode etc. has been taken up by the Government in the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Rehabilitation scheme for mentally retarded women

1843. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

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

(a) whether the Ministry is having or in process to launch any rehabilitation scheme for mentally retarded women who are living in open sky along with their kids as it has been observed that nobody is taking care of them;

(b) whether the Ministry is having any rehabilitation scheme for women who are released from prisons as it has been observed that such women are facing greater difficulties for survival and to join in main-stream of the society; and

(c) whether the Ministry approached State Governments on these subjects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) The primary responsibility for programmes of rehabilitation and care of persons with disabilities including that of mentally retarded persons lies with the State Governments as per entry No. 9 in the "State List". However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Under the Central Sector Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided to Non-Government Organizations for providing various services to mentally retarded persons including women for projects like special schools for persons with mental retardation, vocational training centres, project for cerebral palsied children, pre-school and early intervention & training, half way homes for psycho-social rehabilitation of treated and controlled mentally ill persons etc.

The Government in the Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Swadhar Greh Scheme for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances including mentally retarded and women prisoners released from jail without any family/societal support. Under the Scheme free

shelter, food, medical care, pocket money and vocational training etc. are being provided to beneficiaries.

Nari Niketan and Bal Niketan

†1844. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formal and vocational education is also provided to minors or destitute or girls or children kept in places like 'Nari Niketans' and 'Bal Niketans' functioning in different States of the country for any other reasons for giving protection to them with legal consent, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the legal provision for any girl or boy who want to leave Nari Niketan of Bal Niketan with one's own will after attaining adulthood, 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 is not implementing any programme/ scheme specially for 'Nari Niketans' and 'Bal Niketans'. However, the Government, in the Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up of various types of Homes as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (JJ Act) for children in difficult circumstances, including orphans and destitute children under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). ICPS also provides for formal education and vocational training for children residing in these Homes.

Children living in these Homes, except children in conflict with law, can leave the Home after attaining adulthood. Children in conflict with law undergoing an enquiry are required to continue staying in the Observation Homes if required by Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs). Similarly, children who have been found guilty, and JJBs have given orders to keep them for a specified period in Special Homes, would be required to stay in the Home till the completion of such period even if they attain adulthood. As per the JJ Act the maximum period for which the child can be kept in a Special Home is three years.

As for the Nari Niketans, the information is being collected from the State Governments/UT Administration and will be laid on the table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.