

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) per National Family Health Survey III (2005-06) data, 35.4% of women in the age group of 15-49 and approximately 40% of women in case of ever married women have experienced physical or sexual violence. 6.7% of all women have experienced both physical and sexual forms of domestic violence. Further, the data suggests that both physical and sexual forms of domestic violence against women are higher in rural as compared to urban areas.

(c) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was brought into force w.e.f. 26th October, 2006. The Government has requested the State Governments and UT Administrations from time to time, to appoint Protection Officers, register Service Providers and notify Medical Facilities etc. for effective implementation of the Act. The Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, issued a detailed Advisory to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations advising them, amongst others, to vigorously enforce the protection of women. The States have also been advised to sensitize the law enforcement machinery towards crime against women.

(d) No survey has been conducted after 2005-06.

(e) Does not arise.

Policy for defining the 'child'

2629. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not formulated a National Policy for Children defining the 'child';

(b) whether it is a fact that as per social audit, grave violations of child rights are taking place with impunity;

(c) whether the Convention on the Rights of the Child has time and again recommended that a uniform definition of the 'child' is adopted in the policy and laws; and

(d) if so, by when Government will be do it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Policy for Children (NPC), 1974 does not define the child.

(b) The Social Audit report, "Twenty Years of CRC - A Balance Sheet", produced by a Nongovernmental Organization, makes an assessment of the progress made by India

on implementation of the commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and identifies the gaps and challenges that remain.

(c) The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a 'child' as every human being below the age of 18 years. The UN Committee on Child Rights has recommended for a uniform definition of the child. However, the Convention also allows for minimum age to be set, under different circumstances, balancing the evolving capacities of the child with the State's obligation to provide special protection.

(d) Harmonization of definition of 'child' under different Acts and policies is a continuous exercise and requires extensive consultations and discussions with all stakeholders.

Forced marriages in Haryana

2630. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trafficking in Haryana for forced marriages has reached alarming proportions; and

(b) if so, the steps that the Ministry is taking to reverse this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) There are media reports of girls being brought from outside the State for the purpose of marriage in Haryana. However, Government of Haryana has stated that there are no forced marriages in the State and that the marriages are also being solemnized across the country breaking the barriers of caste, creed and language. Further, the Census data shows that the overall sex ratio in the State of Haryana has improved from 861 in 2001 to 877 in 2011 and the child sex ratio (0-6 years) from 819 to 830 over the same period.

(b) The Government has taken a number of measures to improve the sex ratio. The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 makes sex selective abortions a punishable offence. Further, the Ministry undertakes programmes for awareness generation as well as for socio-economic empowerment of women.

The Government of Haryana has also taken various steps to improve the gender balance. These include- implementation of the Ladli Scheme w.e.f. 20.8.2005 under which a sum of Rs. 5000/- is given on the birth of second girl child for a period of 5 years; and giving cash prize to the best performing districts in terms of sex ratio.

In so far as trafficking is concerned, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prohibits trafficking in human beings, including children and lays down penalties for trafficking. Advisories for combating