

(c) and (d) In so far as recommendations for a Reformed and Strengthened ICDS by the NAC are concerned, it did not suggest a separate fund to the States for Schemes for the welfare and upliftment of dalits under the Scheme.

Exploitation of girls in Nari Niketan

†2162. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several girls have been living for many years in Government Nari Niketans where cases of their exploitation are brought to fore often through media; and

(b) the details of basis on which girls are kept in Nari Niketans and the legal status of girls seeking salvation after attaining adulthood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Nari Niketans are set up and administered by respective State Governments. As per the information available from States, women victims are admitted in these Homes as per direction/orders of the Courts and are also released as per the orders of the Courts.

Stringent law for crimes against women

†2163. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps for making the laws pertaining to misbehaviour, rape and other serious and heinous crimes against women, more stringent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The Indian Penal Code (IPC) already contains provisions relating to offences against women (Sections 354, 376, 498A and 509). Apart from these the Government has also enacted specific legislations such as the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 to accord a higher degree of protection of women from social evils and crimes. The Government reviews existing legal provisions from time to time and brings in necessary amendments, when required.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.