

- ii. Every year, State Governments are requested to take special initiative to delay marriage on *Akha Teej*—the traditional day for such marriages, by coordinated efforts.
- iii. The Government of India launched SABLA, a Scheme for empowering adolescent girls, in 200 districts of the country on 19th November, 2010. The Scheme aims at empowering adolescent girls (11-18 years) by improving their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills like home skills, life skills and vocational skills etc. and building awareness on various issues. They are also sensitized towards the importance of marriage at the right age. By empowering adolescent girls, the Scheme addresses the issue of child marriage.
- iv. Workshops, seminars and legal awareness camps are organized in various States by the Ministry and its autonomous institutions to spread awareness and bring attitudinal changes to prevent child marriage.

Speeding up the process of reforming juvenile delinquents

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

- (a) whether it is proposed to speed up the process of reforming juvenile delinquents under qualified counsellors in the country;
- (b) whether this process has taken the back-seat in the country with the result that there has been a fast increase in this category;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what is the other course of action plan to reform child delinquents and bring them on the proper road for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 being administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development is the primary legislation for rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstances, including children in conflict with law. The JJ Act and the Central Model Rules thereunder, provide for various measures, including counselling, for ensuring the well being and rehabilitation of such children.

(b) to (d) To ensure the proper implementation of the JJ Act and to improve the quality of services for children under the Act, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has introduced the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) which provides financial and technical assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations to put in place a range of measures for rehabilitation of such children, including, *inter-alia*, institutional and non-institutional care, education, vocational training, health services etc. One of the important interventions for such children under the Scheme is counselling for which the Scheme provides for full time counsellor in every institution as well as in the District Child Protection Units under the Scheme.

Further, under ICPS, financial assistance is also provided to State Governments/UT Administrations *inter-alia* for after care services for children leaving the Homes to help sustain them during the transition from institutional to independent life. The services include housing facilities, vocational training, help to gain employment, counselling and stipend etc.

Fund under training and employment programme to support women

457. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allocated any fund under Training and Employment Programme for updating skills and new knowledge to support women;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of fund allocated during the last three years;
- (c) the details of target fixed/achieved during the last three years; and
- (d) whether Government has achieved the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Yes Sir, Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme as a Central Sector Scheme for skill up-gradation of marginalized and assetless women to ensure sustainable employment and income generation. Financial assistance is provided under STEP to the eligible implementing agencies of different States/UTs whose project proposals are recommended by State Level Empowered Committee and approved by the Project Sanctioning Committee of the Ministry.