

- (iv) “Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)”, a scheme for Skill Development launched in 2013-14 where 33% seats are reserved for minority girls, is implemented by empanelled Project Implementing Agencies, During 2013-14 under the scheme, ₹ 17.00 Crore were released for skill training of 20,164 minority youths.
- (v) Term Loan, Micro-Finance and a promotional Vocational training scheme for minorities including women/girls, is implemented through National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC). These schemes are operationalized through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs). During last three years, an amount of ₹ 550.38 Crore and ₹ 549.04 Crore has been disbursed to 57,848 and 2,26,328 beneficiaries under Term Loan and Micro Finance respectively.

Changes to Juvenile Justice ACT, 2000

1822. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on bringing major changes to the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children), Act, 2000;
- (b) if so the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the issues related to protection of childrens' welfare proposed to be addressed through the legislation?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 several issues had arisen such as increasing incidents of abuse of children in institutions, families and communities; inadequate facilities, quality of care and rehabilitation measures in Homes; delays in various processes under the Act, such as decisions by Child Welfare Committees (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) leading to high pendency of cases; disruption of adoption and delays in adoption due to faulty and incomplete processing; lack of clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and accountability of CWC and JJB; addressing heinous offences committed by children in the age group of 16 to 18 years; and inadequate provisions to counter offences against children such as corporal punishment, sale of children for adoption purposes, ragging etc.

Housing scheme for widows

†1823. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by Government for the welfare of the widows;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.