Note: 1.Dates in brackets are the dates up to which funds have been released for the financial year 2014-15.

Surrogacy as a commercial industry

1389. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report titled "Surrogacy Motherhood: Ethical or Commercial" compiled by the Centre for Social Research with the support of the Ministry which illustrates that surrogacy has become a commercial industry where the rights of surrogate mothers who are compelled by economic reasons are violated; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are being taken to bring about some regulations in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) Yes Madam, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Health Research (DHR) are aware about the report entitled "Surrogacy Motherhood: Ethical or Commercial" compiled by the Centre for Social Research (CSR).

^{2.} Under Central Sector schemes of the Ministry, funds are released to the implementing organisations which include Non-Government Organisations also.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed that to regulate the commercial surrogacy in the country and in order to safeguard the rights and interest of surrogate mothers including her health, her children and adequate compensation appropriate provisions have been made in the draft Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill which is at very advance stage of enactment. The issues raised in the CSR Report have already been addressed in the draft Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill.

Protection of women and girl children

1390. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bill for action against brutal assaults on women and girl children gets amended with conventional point programme;
- (b) whether Government would take comprehensive rural activities for protection of girl children; and
- (c) whether stringent workforce would enhance security of working women in their work place and ensure protection by severe enforcement of Law?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Protection of girls children is of utmost priority for the Government. The Government of India has already enacted a number of legislations to address this issue. These include the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA).

Further, Government of India has recently introduced the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme for survival, protection and education of girl child. It aims to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) through a mass campaign across the country targeted at changing societal mindsets and creating awareness about the criticality of the issue. There are focussed intervention and multi-sectoral action in 100 districts with low Child Sex Ratio.

The Sabla scheme of the Ministry aims at the empowerment of adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 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.