

(b) whether Government is aware that several Residential Care Facilities have failed to comply and have not been penalized as the Juvenile Justice Act does not contain penalties for failure to register within the six month period that was provided in the Act; and

(c) the actions Government proposes to take against unregistered Children's Residential Care Facilities?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 there is a provision of registration of Child Care Institutions including children homes, shelter homes etc. which have residential care facilities for children. There are 1389 Child Care Institutions registered under this Act which are getting financial assistance under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has introduced a Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014 in the Parliament which proposes mandatory registration of Child Care Institutions within six months from the date of commencement of Act with stringent penalties for non-compliance. The Bill proposes punishment with imprisonment which may extend to one year or a fine of not less than one lakh rupees or both.

#### **National mission for empowerment of women**

616. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken towards convergence of various women centric schemes under the National Mission for Empowerment of Women;

(b) whether any pilot convergence projects have been initiated under the mission, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) National Mission for Empowerment of Women endeavors to facilitate the reach of various services and programmes of the Central and

State Governments to the target group of women. Towards this, implementation of Poorna Shakti Kendra (PSK) project as pilot project to demonstrate convergence of schemes and programs for women at the ground level in select districts has been initiated. The PSKs provide a platform/forum for women to come together, explore their potentials and possibilities, raise awareness about their contributions to society and their social, economic and political rights, facilitate access to schemes and entitlements and build capabilities for promoting their participation in decision-making.

(b) Poorna Shakti Kendra (PSK) conceived as pilot convergence project is currently operational in 12 districts *i.e.* Medak (Andhra Pradesh), Aurangabad (Bihar), Aravali/ Sabarkantha (Gujarat), Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya), Champai (Mizoram), Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Solan (Himachal Pradesh), Kohima (Nagaland), Malda (West Bengal), Pali & Bundi (Rajasthan), Chandigarh, Kamrup, Metro (Assam).

(c) Question does not arise.

#### **Guidelines for POCSO Act 2012**

617. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the State Governments has prepared guidelines for the use of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), professionals, experts etc., as envisaged in Section 39 of the Protection of Child from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not preparing guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government has enacted a special law “Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012” which has come into effect from 14th November, 2012. Section 39 of the Act requires the State Governments to prepare guidelines for use of NGOs, professional and experts or persons to be associated with the pre-trial and trial stage to assist the child. On request from several State Governments, Model Guidelines were developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and sent to all the State Governments/UT Administrations in September, 2013, which can be adopted or adapted by them for better implementation of the said Act. Further, as per Report of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), seven States/Union Territories have confirmed formulation/acceptance of guidelines for various stakeholders and remaining States/UTs have already initiated action for this purpose.