Private food manufacturers in ICDS

1259. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments are giving contracts to private food manufacturers to supply nutritious food for vulnerable infants and pregnant women and nursing mothers under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), despite Supreme Court order prohibiting private players in the ICDS Scheme; and

(b) if so, the States which have given contracts to private players and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs. The Scheme provides for a package of six services including Supplementary Nutrition (SNP) for children in the age group of 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The Supreme Court *vide* their order dated 07.10.2004, in a Public Interest Litigation – W.P. No.196 of 2001, had directed that the contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Aanganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, self-help groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals. These directions were reiterated by the Supreme Court on 13.12.2006 and 22.04.2009. Accordingly, all the States/UTs were addressed on 17.12.2004 for compliance of Supreme Court order dated 07.10.2004.

Later on, in Civil Appeal No.7104 of 2011–Shagun Mahila Udyogik Sahakari Sanstha Maradit *versus* State of Maharashtra and others the Supreme Court gave judgement dated 19th August, 2011. All the States/UTs were requested on 9th May, 2012 to comply with the directions of the Supreme Court in the aforesaid judgement.

Orphans and destitute victims of earthquake and communal violence

†1260. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the children, who became orphans and destitute due to earthquake and communal violence in the country during the last three years as on date, State-wise/incident-wise;

(b) the welfare measures taken by Government for the rehabilitation of such orphaned and destitute children; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has received any foreign aid in this regard during the said period, till date?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) No such data is maintained centrally in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing financial assistance since 2009-10, under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), to State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up and maintenance of various types of Homes and Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs). These institutions are set up by State Governments/UT Administrations under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, either by themselves or through voluntary organisations, for rehabilitation and re-integration of children in need of care and protection, including children rendered orphans in communal violence, terrorist attacks and other natural calamities such as earthquake and flood.

(c) No, Sir.

Rescue of children from trafficking

1261. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 650 kids have been rescued from stations in North India in four months, if so, details thereof; and

(b) what effective steps the Ministry is taking in conjunction with Railways to rescue children from trafficking and rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Railways on 19th May, 2015, to further the association and co-operation in the implementation of jointly prepared Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and to ensure the care and protection, security, well-being of run-away, unaccompanied and trafficked children who come in contact with the railways. The Ministry has decided to set up Child Help Desks/ Kiosks on the platforms of 20 major stations, initially with help of Ministry of Railways. These help desks will assist Child Help Groups comprising of Station Superintendent/Station Master, the SHO (GRP), Inspector (RPF) and SSE (Works) for rescue and rehabilitation of children in difficult circumstances.