

the nodal Ministry. The major activities of AADHAR include receiving and taking follow up action on representations, the complaints and grievances of older persons.

- (iii) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has commissioned a project called OASIS (an acronym for Old Age Social and Income Security) and appointed an expert committee headed by Dr. S.A. Dave, former Chairman of UTI, to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India. The Committee's Report is under consideration of the nodal Ministry, in consultation with other Ministries.
- (iv) On the request of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the Chief Justice of India has advised Chief Justice of the High Courts in the Country to ensure expeditious disposal of Court Cases involving Older Persons.
- (v) At the initiating and with the financial assistance of the nodal Ministry a Telephone Helpline for older persons has been started by an NGO called Agewell Foundation. This Helpline is functional from April, 1999.
- (vi) National Institute of Social Defence has started a six months course for home care of elderly disabled persons. This course will help to prepare a cadre of Geriatric Animators to render comprehensive care to the aged in their homes and in the Community.
- (vii) The Ministry has finalised an Action Plan for 2000—2005 for implementation of the Policy and through this Action Plan, a coordinated effort is aimed at to provide quality life to older persons in various spheres of life like socio-economic, health, income security etc.

Promotion and Protection of Children

***187. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations has emphasised the need for special care for promotion and protection of children;

(b) whether the Convention of the Rights of the Child has drafted a document, spelling out some special rights for children; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is a party to the aforesaid Convention; and

(d) what follow-up steps have been taken to give effect to the rights included in the document referred in part (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The General Assembly of the UN on 20th November 1989 adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child which contains a charter of Children's Rights. The Government of India acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in December, 1992.

The rights under the Convention in brief are as follows:

1. Right of the child to preserve his identity, nationality, name, family relations.
2. A child shall not be separated from his parent.
3. Right to express views.
4. Right to freedom of expression, subject to certain restrictions.
5. Right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
6. Right of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
7. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference.
8. Child should have access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources.
9. Right to be protected from physical and mental violence and exploitation.
10. Right of the disabled child to special care and attention.
11. Right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilitate for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.
12. Every child has the right to benefit from social security.

13. Right of every child to a standard of living for his physical, mental and moral development.
14. Right of the child to education.
15. Right of the child to rest and leisure.
16. Right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing hazardous work.
17. Protection of children from illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
18. Protection of child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.
19. To take measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of traffic in children.
20. Protection of child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.
21. No child should be subjected to torture or be deprived of his liberty.

(d) Most of the Rights contained in the CRC are included in our Constitution and the existing laws of the country. The different Ministries & Departments of the Government of India are implementing various Schemes for the benefit of the children in the country aimed at giving concrete shape to their rights.

Justice to Kunja Rani

***188. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:**

PROF. RAMGOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Dainik Jagran on 26th August, 2000 under the caption, "Kunja Rani ne khel mantri ka darvaza khatkhataya par santwana ke siva kutch nahin mila";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps Government have taken so far to motivate the sports persons towards sports, by giving justice to Kunja Rani?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS SUSHREE UMA BHARTI: (a) Yes, Sir.