

Plan to improve juvenile homes

†945. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out a plan to extensively improve the juvenile homes extensively taking into account their miserable condition, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is not a fact that these juvenile homes failed to bring about a positive change and desired improvement among the children; and

(c) if so, the stand of Government with regard to bringing sweeping reforms in the condition of these juvenile homes?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) has come into effect from 15.01.2016 repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. Under the JJ Act, 2015 several provisions have been included to improve the condition of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) including those housing children in conflict with law by providing for inspections of these CCIs by Juvenile Justice Board; prescribing various rehabilitation and reintegration services including skill development, recreational facilities, mental health interventions, etc.

Vacancies for judges in POCSO courts

946. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of vacancies for judges in Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Courts in the country, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that all vacancies are filled, including the timeline by which this shall be accomplished;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware that vacancies for judges in POCSO Courts is jeopardizing the objective of the POCSO Act; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to review the capacity of the institutions involved with implementing the POCSO Act effectively?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) As reported by National Commission

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.