

gross enrolment ratio in primary, upper primary and elementary education has been improving steadily since 2000-01. The percentage of women workers under MNRGES getting 100 days of employment in villages has steadily increased over the years much above the statutory minimum of 33%.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also administering various schemes such as Swadhar and Short Stay Homes, Working Women Hostels, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), Sabla and Matritva Sahyog Yojana for welfare and empowerment of women. Further, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was launched in January 2015 to address the issue of declining child sex ratio; One Stop Centres (OSCs) and Women Helpline Schemes for women affected by violence have been introduced last year.

#### **Discontinuation of a scheme for street children**

1337. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' has been discontinued, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government proposed to conduct a study to ascertain the number of street children and the standard of their living in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to create a secured and caring environment for the street children and their overall development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched in the year 2009-10, a comprehensive Umbrella Scheme, the 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' (ICPS), by merging the *erstwhile* Schemes namely (i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice; (ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; and (iii) Scheme for Assistance to Homes [Shishu Greh] in order to provide a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in difficult circumstances including street children.

(b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has not made any estimate about the number of street and destitute children in the country. However, a rapid assessment survey of street involved children carried out by Don Bosco National Forum in the year 2013 for the Young at Risk (YaR), New Delhi and Don Bosco Research Centre, Mumbai in 16 cities of India has come to the notice of the Government of India. As per the aforesaid survey, the number of street involved children in 16

cities of the country, including metropolitan cities is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the City	Number of Street involved Children
1.	New Delhi	69,976
2.	Mumbai	16,059
3.	Kolkata	8,287
4.	Chennai	2,374
5.	Bangalore	7,523
6.	Hyderabad	1,797
7.	Trivandrum	140
8.	Chandigarh	2,323
9.	Guwahati	5,534
10.	Dimapur	2,455
11.	Imphal	851
12.	Shillong	872
13.	Vijayawada	2,238
14.	Salem	5,752
15.	Goa	1,287
16.	Baroda	2,428

(c) Under ICPS funds are given to the State Governments/UT Administrations with the objective to create a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in need of care and protection, including street and destitute children. One of the activities under ICPS includes setting up of Open Shelters for providing care and rehabilitation services to children in need of care and protection in urban and semi-urban areas. The programmes and activities at these Open Shelters *inter alia* include age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, bridge education, linkages to the National Open School Programme (NOSP), health care, counselling etc.

#### **Centralised data for missing and found children**

1338. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken steps to designate a single central body, which is responsible for maintaining figures on missing and found children from all States and Union Territories; and