

conducted a Study on Education and Vocational Training of Children staying at Observation Homes and Special Homes. The study was conducted in 50 Homes in the 18 States/UTs, covering all the five regions, *i.e.*, East, West, North, South & North-East. These States/UTs are - Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The report has been uploaded on the website of NCPCR is available at <https://ncpcr.gov.in/showfile.php?lang=1&level=1&&sublinkid=1711&lid=1700>.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provides for vocational training to children placed in various Child Care Institutions, for their rehabilitation based on the interest and aptitude of the child. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme *i.e.* “Child Protection Services” (CPS) (erstwhile Integrated Child Protection Scheme) and providing financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations, with the primary objective of care and protection of children in distress conditions through institutional and non-institutional care. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 framed under JJ Act, *inter alia* specify standards for rehabilitation measures such as education, vocational training, counselling etc. Further CPS also provides for “After care” services after the age of 18 years to help sustain them during the transition from institutional to independent life. The Scheme provides for funds for managing the Aftercare Programme by the State Child Protection Society at the State level, based on the number of districts in the State *i.e.*

- (i) ₹15 lakhs to State with less than 15 districts.
- (ii) ₹ 30 lakhs to State with more than 15 and less than 30 districts.
- (iii) ₹ 45 lakhs to State with more than 30 districts.

The primary responsibility of implementation of the JJ Act and Scheme lies with the State/UTs.

#### **Death of children due to malnourishment**

†2074. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of children who died in the States of Delhi, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh due to malnourishment during the last three years; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the steps being taken by Government to prevent starvation?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The data on number of deaths of children in the country is not maintained by this Ministry. Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections.

(b) Government of India accords high priority to the issue of hunger and provides foodgrains at highly subsidised prices to the targeted population through States/UTs under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in terms of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWSs). NFSA, 2013, provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of urban population, thus covering about two-third of the population of the country for receiving foodgrains @ of ₹ 3, 2 and 1 per kg. for rice, wheat and nutri-cereals respectively under TPDS. During the year 2018-19, the Government allocated a quantity of 612.18 lakh MT of foodgrains to the States/UTs under NFSA, Other Welfare Schemes and allocations due to natural calamities and festivals. Similarly, during the current year 2019-20, so far 603.88 lakh tons of foodgrains has been allocated under NFSA, OWS and additional allocations.

The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and children upto 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meals, free of cost, as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries are entitled to receive food security allowance. The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the district and State levels.

#### **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act**

2075. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that administering injections, chemical substances or hormones to a child below 18 years to induce early sexual maturity and then force the child into sexual activity may soon become an offence under the aggravated sexual assault clause under Section 9 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and