

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Need to equip schools for redressal of child sexual abuse and to create awareness

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Report, between 2018 and 2020, around 40,000 cases have been registered under POCSO. These are registered cases and there are many unregistered cases also. The number declined in 2020 during the Covid period, but now, it has started rising again.

Children are very vulnerable in our society and this sort of sexual abuse against them impacts them very much physically and mentally and sometimes leads to traumatic memories which the children may carry throughout their lives. The Government enacted the POCSO Act, and though it is effective, there is a vast gap between the awareness of the Act among the children and also different mechanisms in place for addressing the child sexual abuse. A recent survey undertaken by the Outlawed India has revealed that a majority of the Indian schools either don't have a mechanism for dealing with such situations, or if they do, a significant majority of the students are not aware of the Act at all. The gap remains not only because of the implementation, but because of lack of the awareness of the Act among the students and also different mechanisms that ought to be in place. As observed by experts, in many schools, often the child is not even aware that it is a sexual abuse. Out of the Indian schools, only 36 per cent of the schools are aware of this Act and 39 per cent of the students are aware of it. Mostly, the students or the children are scared to report it to their parents, but in most of the cases, the perpetrators are close relatives or the persons known to them.

So, this is a very serious issue and the absence of mechanism has to be addressed very seriously. School is one of the places where the children spend most of their time away from home and thus, it becomes very important. There is a need for immediate intervention to make it mandatory for every school that regular workshops are held for both, students and teachers, and awareness must be created. It should be made compulsory for all schools, and the children, first of all, must know that they have to report. They are not aware of it whether it is an abuse

and not aware of the reporting channel also. So, I urge upon the Government to take this as a very serious issue and do the needful to address the issue.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R.S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Rising pothole deaths on Indian roads

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I wish to reiterate the fact that most visible indicator of the development of any nation is the quality of its roads. The Government bolsters the vision that road safety is made an integral part of road design at its planning stage. Yet, the recent data released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) states the fact that due to potholes, more than 4,000 accidents took place in 2019 and more than 3,000 accidents took place in 2020.

Sir, according to a research by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, road accidents have cost India about three per cent of its Gross Domestic Product per year, or, US dollar 58,000 million in absolute terms. Since pothole deaths constitute integral part of road accidents, there is a recurring