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CPI to include child rights in election manifesto

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The CPI has agreed to consider the inclusion of child rights issue in its election manifesto as suggested by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

On 14 March NCPCR had written to all major political parties requesting them to include a chapter on protection of rights of children in their election manifestos.

"Political parties should come forward and show their commitment towards child rights issues. A political will is needed for the betterment of child rights in the country," said Ms Kushal Singh, chairperson, NCPCR.

Children are nowhere to be seen in the election agenda for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls as they don't have voting rights and do not constitute the electorate. The NCPCR is taking efforts to advocate child rights.

In the letter, Ms Singh had claimed there are policies and institutions for protection of child rights, but political will is needed for effective implementation.

The CPI, in a letter to the NCPCR, said: "NCPCR 14 points items suggested for inclusion in our party's manifesto will be definitely considered by the Manifesto Committee."

NCPCR had suggested that major political parties support children's right to

free and compulsory education, freedom from child labour, child health, prevention of child marriages and eliminating infanticide and female foeticide. There are 14 child rights issue that were recommended to political parties by NCPCR.

The NCPCR chairperson said so far the CPI is the first party to send a reply. She is hopeful that other political parties will reply, too. NCPCR issued the letter to all major political parties including Congress, BJP, BSP, and CPI-M.

A similar effort was taken by the commission before the Assembly polls that took place in many states between November and December last year but the commission received no reply.

