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NCPCR should be a catalyst in protecting Child Rights: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Member of Parliament, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar today called for a “holistic approach” through a convergent and coordinated manner by all the concerned Government and Non-Government Organisations to protect children’s rights and in reaching out to every child in difficult circumstances. He was addressing the 10th Foundation Day of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in New Delhi today.

While expressing concern over the increasing number of crime against children, Shri Chandrasekhar said, NCPCR can and must continue to play the role of a catalyst. He said that due to the efforts of NCPCR, State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights, Government, and police, judiciary and media, awareness about child protection has increased.

Chairperson NCPCR, Smt. Stuti Kacker, while giving a brief outline of the achievements by the Commission since the past years said that NCPCR has formulated comprehensive guidelines on Safety and Security of children in schools which are being developed by reviewing the existing guidelines. She further said, NCPCR has asked all State Governments to ensure provisioning of Aadhaar Cards to all children in the Child Care Institutions and Children in Street Situations, and subsequently ensure that the bank accounts of these children are opened. She said, an Action Plan for Abolition of Child Labour in Delhi has been initiated and the Commission has facilitated development of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Rehabilitation and Restoration of Children in Conflict with Law based on a series of regional and national consultations. Ms. Kacker further informed that a POCSO e-box has been developed and hosted at NCPCR website for online complaint against any kind of sexual abuse of children, adding that the initiative has received the Silver SKOCH Award 2016.

Child artiste, Ruhana Khanna of serial ‘Ganga’ fame shared her experience of portraying the character of a child bride in the soap and praised NCPCR’s efforts in curbing child marriages.

Welcoming the guests and participants, NCPCR Member Shri Priyank Kanoongo stated that NCPCR has worked out a guideline for private play schools in the country for their regulation.

Cash awards and certificates were given away to winners of the All India Short Film, Still Photography and Poster Competition, organised for the first time by NCPCR. Mumbai’s Shri. Kiran Yashawant Awari won the first prize of Rs 1 Lakh in Short Film competition for his film

'Tauffiq' on Right to Education, Shri. Adarsh Vikram won the first prize of Rs 50,000 for his photograph "Little Boy Aziz selling balloons near India Gate" and Jigyasa was given the first prize of Rs 50,000 in the Poster competition.

Children from civil society organisations like PVR Nest, Chetna, Save the Children and Prayas presented a cultural programme comprising dance, skit, docu dance and children circus.

Member of the Commission, Shri Yashwant Jain said that NCPCR will continue to work towards protecting children's rights.

Member, NCPCR Smt Rupa Kapoor; Member Secretary Smt. Geeta Narayan, several State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights chairpersons and West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Member Shri Soumitra Ray were present at the function.

Setup in March 2007, under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, the Commission is mandated to monitor implementation of major Acts like the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

The NCPCR, since its inception, has utilised the methods of State visits; public hearings, issuing of communications in the form of letters, directives, guidelines and recommendations to the Government; complaints management and issue of summons; policy dialogues with the Ministries; and regional and national level consultations, for monitoring child rights.

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Rajya Sabha Member, Shri Rajiv Chandrasekhar giving away the First prize in the short film category of the All India short film, photo and poster competition organised by NCPCR at its 10th Foundation Day function in New Delhi on 5th March 2017