



STATEMENT BY MRS. LOVELEEN KACKER, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 13: VIOLENCE RELATED TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW AT THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF 2006 ON JUNE 8, 2006

Mr. President,

We thank UNICEF for raising the issue of violence against children in conflict with the law.

The Government has initiated an assessment of the situation in all institutions within the Juvenile Justice system through an on the spot visit and analysis. The lack of adequately trained police officers to manage the Special Juvenile Police Units is being addressed through the training of the police officers on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act. UNICEF has been partnering with the Government in these efforts. Juvenile Justice Board members are also being trained to ensure that no violence is committed on children who are produced before them by focused questions to children to ensure that all protective measures listed in the Act have been adhered to by the police. They also look out for any visible evidence of physical abuse.

The incidence of violence in institutions is effectively reduced through community participation and joint management of Homes with civil society organizations. Encouraging visits by family members, mandating the Juvenile Justice Boards to operate from the institutions and ensuring that the Juvenile Justice Board members regularly visit the institutions and interact with children are the ways we are trying to reduce the incidences of violence in the institutions. The Government of India is finalizing an Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

Our country condemns all incidences of violence against children and adolescents in conflict with law and pledges to ensure the safety of children. The proposed Offences against Children Bill also recommend stricter penal action against all those who commit violence against children in their custody. Efforts

will be made to create effective systems for reporting of violence, investigation and judicial action to protect the best interest of children.

We reiterate the commitment of the Republic of India to child protection and that we will strive for zero tolerance on violence against children.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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