



Special Courts for POCSO Cases

The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to set up **special courts** to deal **exclusively** with **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases**.

- Special courts will be established under a **Central scheme** (fully funded by the Centre) in each **district** across the country that had **over a 100 cases** of child **abuse** and **sexual assault pending trial** under the [Protection of Children from Sexual Offences \(POCSO\) Act](#).
- The Centre would have to appoint trained, sensitised prosecutors and support persons to deal with the POCSO cases ([deals with crime against minor](#)).
- Supreme court has also directed states to ensure there is no delay in **Forensic Sciences Laboratories (FSL)** releasing test reports in POCSO cases.
- Supreme Court has found that the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**, which is mandated to monitor implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, does not have any data on POCSO cases in the country.

Problems in NCPCR

- NCPCR still follows an **outdated format of data collection**, which only lists out **state wise** number of nodal officers, special courts, special prosecutors, whether the victim has received compensation, etc.
- It **doesn't** collect or maintain **district-wise data** on POCSO cases before the police or courts, nor does it have disaggregated data as per various sections of POCSO Act.
- NCPCR has started the process of developing a new **online tool** and format for data collection in 2018 but the portal is still in its **testing period**.

Pendency in POCSO Cases

- Nearly **1.5 lakh cases** under POCSO Act are pending.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has the most cases pending (over 44,000)followed by **Maharashtra** (over 19,000 cases).
- According to [National Crime Records Bureau](#) around 89% (in 2016) of the total cases before the courts are pending trial while the pendency rate at the police investigation stage is 31%.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

- NCPCR was established in March 2007 as a statutory body under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
- It was set up to protect, promote and defend child rights in the country.

Functions of NCPCR under POCSO Act

- To monitor the implementation of the provisions of the POCSO Act.
- Monitor the designation of Special Courts by state governments.
- Monitor the appointment of Public Prosecutors by state governments.
- Monitor formulation of the guidelines described in the Act by the state government.

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