



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

4th December 2015

Dear Shri Chandy,

I write to you to draw your attention to recent allegations about the sexual abuse of children in Education Institutions in Kerala, and lack of response from your Government to these. As you are aware, journalist VP Rajeena and film-maker Ali Akbar have recently related their experiences of abuse as children, in certain Education Institutions.

Section 19 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, mandates that *any individual or authority who has apprehension that an offence under the Act has been committed or is likely to be committed, shall mandatorily report the matter to the concerned authorities.* In light of this, and the recent revelations made, it is clear that the State Government of Kerala is not discharging its responsibility and accountability in connection with these allegations. It would be appropriate that your Government immediately order a probe of these allegations and prosecute the perpetrators and enablers of these crimes, if any.

You will recall that in March 2014, nearly 500 children from the state were rescued from an alleged trafficking attempt. While the CBI has registered a case in this regard, I am surprised at the silence of the State Government on this very serious issue. The 2014 incident is possibly the tip of the iceberg and points to possibly a wider, more flourishing Child Trafficking phenomenon and Child Sexual Abuse being highly pervasive in Kerala. Child Sexual Abuse, a form of terrorism perpetrated against children, requires the urgent and immediate intervention by your Government and not silence. The conspiracy of silence that has prevented people from talking about Child Sexual Abuse is being broken and the focus is now on Government's response to protecting our children against these crimes and to bringing criminals to book.



Kerala has reported the highest number of Child Trafficking cases in India, and has therefore, unfortunately developed the ignominy of being home to a large number of sexually abused children. Your Government is vested with the responsibility of ensuring the safety, well-being and protection of children, and I hope that your Government will take cognisance of this by taking requisite action. If the State Government fails to take the necessary action, I will as a concerned representative of the people, take to legal recourse to address the problem.

I am attaching a copy of a press statement I have issued in this regard, for your perusal.

Yours sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Oommen Chandy
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram