

Government to reconstitute juvenile boards soon

HT Correspondent

hpleters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: The state government would shortly constitute or reconstitute Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees to strengthen child protection mechanism in Bihar, said social welfare minister, Parveen Amanullah here on Monday.

Inaugurating a state-level 'Civil society consultation on integrate child protection scheme (ICPS) in Bihar' jointly organised by Unicef, Save the Children, Plan India and nearly 350 NGOs at Hotel Patliputra Ashok, she said the state government has already notified specialised adoption resource agency (SARA), as required under the MOU signed with the Centre in 2010.

Addressing key decision makers on implementation of ICPS, the minister said, "The consultation will help enhance their understanding of child protection issues". "The state government is planning to roll out ICPS, the newest flagship of union ministry of women and child development," said Amanullah.

Abhijeet Nirmal, coordinator, Save the Children, said, "ICPS brings together multiple vertical schemes under one roof and integrates state's intervention



■ Social welfare minister Parveen Amanullah (second from left) at ICPS programme in Patna on Monday. SANTOSH/HT PHOTO

with decentralised and systematic approach. It aims at creating protective environment for all the children on the lines of UN Convention on Rights of the Child and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) amendment Act, 2006".

According to Mansoor Quadri, child protection specialist, Unicef, "Alliance for Child Protection—Bihar has been formed to provide all possible aid to the government, civil society, the community and to chil-

dren for successful implementation of ICPS and other protection related programmes".

Other speakers regretted that the involvement of voluntary sector in rollout, implementation and monitoring of ICPS has been minimal in Bihar. The participation of civil society organisations so far has been minimal, they said. The consultation was an initiative to start a dialogue between government and civil society organisations that would be followed by a series of activities.