

Abolition of Devadasi System**3151. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN****MOHANTY :****SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :**

Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have enquired into the Devadasi system which is flourishing as a part of religious practice in any part of India at present and whether the said system is leading to social degradation of women ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to abolish and prevent the said system ; and

(c) if so, details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Some of the States, where this problem exists, have special laws, such as, the Bombay Devadasis Prevention Act, 1934 and Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947, prohibiting the Devadasi system. More recently, the Karnataka Government has passed the new Karnataka Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act. However, the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, as amended in 1978 to make it more effective, is applicable to all States (except Sikkim) and Union Territories. It prohibits (i) keeping a brothel or allowing premises to be used as a brothel ; (ii) living on the earnings of prostitution ; (iii) procuring, inducing or taking women or girls for the sake of prostitution ; (iv) detaining a woman or girl on premises where prostitution is carried on ; (v) seducing or soliciting for purpose of prostitution ; (vi) seduction of a woman or girl in custody. Any person who violates the provisions of the Act is liable, on conviction, to punishment prescribed under the Act.

The Act provides for a specialised machinery for the detention and apprehension of cases involved in the vice and envisages the setting up of

protective homes and correctional institutions for the care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of the rescued women and girls. The enforcement of the Act, however, lies with the State Governments.

Three Language Formula in States**3159. SHRI ERA ANBARASU :**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps that have been taken to give statutory shape to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's assurances to the non-Hindi speaking people in the country on the question of language ; and

(b) in how many States (alongwith the names of States) in the country the three-language formula is being implemented and in how many States (alongwith the names of States) the two-language formula is in force ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) The assurances given by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to the effect that Hindi will not be imposed on the non-Hindi speaking States has all through-out been followed in spirit and action. The Official Languages Act, 1963, and the amendments thereto passed by the Parliament in 1967, provide for continuation of the use of English language, in addition to Hindi, for all the official purposes of the Union, notwithstanding the expiration of the period of 15 years from the commencement of the Constitution.

According to the Provision of the Act the Status quo will be maintained until both the Houses of State Legislature and both the Houses of Parliament have passed Resolutions contrary to the existing provisions.

(b) A statement showing the position of the implementation of three-language formula by the State Governments/Union Territories is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. Lt. 7933/84]. Most of the States have, in principle, accepted the three-