

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4019

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005

SMUGGLING OF WOMEN

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of smuggling of girls/women has increased in the capital in the recent past as appeared in the Dainik Jagran dated August 8, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether these women are sexually exploited by the middlemen who bring them in the name of employment;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check immoral trafficking?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

- (a)&(b) Various studies on trafficking of Women and Girl indicates trafficking of girls to metropolitan cities which are major destination areas.
- (c)&(d) The girls rescued from the brothels informed that they were brought on the pretext of employment, marriage etc.
- (e) The steps taken by the Government to check immoral trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation are as under:
 - (i) Amendment of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 to make it stricter for traffickers and minimize re-victimisation of victims. Setting up of Nodal Authority to deal with anti trafficking measures at national and state level both has been proposed under amendment of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956.
 - (ii) The government is running various programmes on Women Empowerment, Education and Awareness Generation programme and special programmes for girls and adolescent like Swa-Shakti, Swayamsidha, Balika Samridhi Yojana, Kishori Shakti Yojana etc.
 - (iii) Government of India has formulated a detailed Media Campaign using TV, Radio and Print. Apart from this both governments and NGOs are mobilizing social change through advocacy and community participation in programmes. A fifteen minute duration sponsored radio programme 'Akash Hamara Hai' is being aired which highlights issues concerning to women and children including trafficking of women and children. A 30 seconds duration spot on female foeticide, sexual harassment of women at work place, child sex abuse, falling female sex ratio, women empowerment and trafficking were telecasted from Doordarshan before evening English News and Hindi Samachar and Cricket Test Match Series during October-November 2004. Outdoor publicity were organized through kiosk hording/display, message on bus back panel in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Gujarat, Orissa, Bihar, Hyderabad City, Trivandrum City and Chennai. The Department is bringing National Commission for Child Rights for proper enforcement of children's right and effective implementation of laws and programmes relating to children.
 - (iv) The Government has drawn up a National Plan of Action (1998) and constituted a Central Advisory Committee to combat trafficking, rescue and rehabilitate victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and activate legal and law enforcement systems to strengthen implementation of the ITPA. The committee is chaired by Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development and consists of members from concerned Departments of Government, State Government and prominent NGOs working in this area. Central Advisory Committee has constituted three different sub committees for suggestion on rescue, rehabilitation and prevention. Central Advisory Committee meets quarterly to review the initiatives taken and problems faced by different stake holders in combating trafficking of women and children.
 - (v) State Advisory committees on Trafficking developing authority and seeking to 'mobilize greater state resources in the fight against

trafficking have been set up in states under chairpersonship of Chief Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary.

(vi) The Government has issued guidelines to the States for effective implementation of the Plan of Action and regularly reviews State action.

(vii) The Government has notified officers of the level of Inspector and above in the CBI as Trafficking Police Officers for investigation of inter-state trafficking cases.

(viii) The Government has resolved to implement the Global code of Ethics for tourism, which prohibits sexual exploitation of children for purpose of sex tourism. In addition Chief Secretaries of all the State/UTs and Director General (Tourism) have also been requested to make it legally binding for the hotels, lodging/boarding houses to prominently display at the reception counter anti trafficking messages and penal provisions against sexual exploitation.

(ix) A manual for sensitizing the Police Force has been prepared in collaboration with UNICEF India Country Office. The Department of Women and Child Development, in partnership with UNICEF, has also prepared manual for the sensitization of the District and Taluka level Judiciary, under the aegis of National Human Rights Commission, on the subject of trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. The manual would assist the judges of the taluka and district levels to implement the ITPA more effectively. Manual for Medical Officers dealing with Medico-Legal cases of victims of trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Child Sexual Abuse and Manual for Social Workers dealing with child victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation will empower medical officers and social workers to understand proper way of handling such situations.

(x) The Government of India running the scheme of Short Stay Home, Swadhar and Pilot Projects on Combating Trafficking.