

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3932
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004
EXPLOITATION OF MINOR FEMALE
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Human Rights Commission has made any investigation in connection with the exploitation of minor female children employed by the owner of Great Roman Circus;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of Commission that these children were sexually abused by their owner;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible;
- (e) whether child rights activities of Nepal have requested the Union Government to repatriate these Nepali children;
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to check such exploitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a)to(d): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had ordered an investigation into allegations of exploitation of minor children employed by the Great Roman Circus. The Commission has also sought the comments of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The NHRC has yet to finalise its findings.

(e)to(f): The Government of Nepal had drawn the attention of the Government of India to the allegation of employment of Nepalese children in a circus in Uttar Pradesh and requested for release and handing over the children to their relatives. Pursuant to this the Nepalese Government officials visited the spot and, at their request, 12 Nepalese children employed in the circus were handed over to them.

(g): `Public Order` and `Police` are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such detection, registration, investigation and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, take measures for prevention of crime against women and children.

The suggested measures include sensitization of police officials, setting up of exclusive Women Police Stations and Women Police Cells in Police Stations and constitution of Special Session Courts with female Judges, institutional support to the victims of violence, training to police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women and children, counseling, victims of rape, coordination of efforts with Non-Government Organizations for rehabilitation of women victim of crimes etc.

Most of the States and the UTs have set up special cells to deal with crime against women. Many States have also set up Police Stations to be managed exclusively by women police personnel so as to inculcate confidence and security in women to approach police stations without fear.