

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2612

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of USA has agreed to provide assistance to the Government of India to check/stop human trafficking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated number of human trafficking from the country during the last three years and thereafter; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check human trafficking in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

- (a): No, Sir.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): Since trafficking generally takes place in a clandestine manner, it is difficult to estimate the number.
- (d): A statement is enclosed.

Statement referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2612 due for reply on 16.08.2004 by Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy; Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh; Shri S.D. Mandlik; Shri Ravi Prakash Verma; and Shri Vijoy Krishna regarding 'Human Trafficking'.

The Government has taken the following steps to prevent trafficking of women and children:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Set up State Advisory Committees on Trafficking for the same purpose, devolving authority and seeking to mobilise greater state resources in the fight against trafficking.
- (iii) The Department of Women & Children Development (DWCD) has issued guidelines to the States for effective implementation of the Plan of Action and regularly reviews State action.
- (iv) The DWCD is presently reviewing the existing legal framework including the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act.
- (v) DWCD has undertaken regional efforts, in alliance with NGOs, to create greater awareness of the dimensions of trafficking and increase sensitivity to victims among Government Departments, the police and judiciary, as well as within civil society at large.
- (vi) The National Commission for Women is conducting active advocacy against trafficking in partnership with NGOs. It has conducted 20 workshops all over the country and has prepared a comprehensive Report on the subject.
- (vii) Concerned State Governments have enacted legislation to prohibit Devdasi and prevent Jogin traditions of sexual exploitation.
- (viii) Profiling NGOs that are engaged in tackling trafficking and helping to rehabilitate victims.

(ix) The DWCD has initiated a new scheme called SWADHAR for women in difficult situations applicable to victims of trafficking also. The scheme provides for shelter, counselling, medical assistance, vocational training to rescued victims.

(x) The DWCD had formulated a model grant-in-aid scheme for assistance to NGOs to combat trafficking in source areas, traditional areas and destination areas through prevention, rescue and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on counselling, non-formal education and vocational training.

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

(xii) The DWCD has proposed to the Ministry of Home Affairs to set up of a nodal agency for combating and monitoring of trafficking.

(xiii) The NHRC and DWCD have initiated a Survey on trafficking within the country. The study will also investigate the causal and behavioural aspects of all agents in trafficking. The DWCD has also commissioned a Survey to go into the magnitude of the problem, an estimate of the numbers involved and trafficking routes.