

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2974
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
Satheedevi Smt. P.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Institute of Social Sciences has conducted any research on trafficking of women and children for sex work during the recent year;
- (b) whether incidents of recruiting children from unorganized labour sector for sex work have been reported;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any initiative to curtail the mishappening to children; and
- (d) if so,; the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) & (b) As per information furnished by Institute of Social Sciences, the Institute had conducted an all India study on Trafficking in Women and Children during 2003-2005. During the Research Programme, a number of instances of commercial sexual exploitation of children in the unorganized sector have come to their notice.

(c) & (d) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPS is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The amended Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 and is now under the examination of the Ministry related Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Ministry of WCD also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to sex workers including child sex workers. A pilot project on combating trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is also being implemented. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programme for prevention of trafficking.