

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:916
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN
Patil Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb

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

- (a) whether incidents of trafficking of women from North Eastern parts of India to various parts of the country for sex trade has been reportedly increased in the recent time;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb such activities;
- (c) whether such incidents have also been reported from other parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government propose to assign the work of survey of status of adolescent girls in the North Eastern parts of the country to the non-governmental organisations working in the field of women welfare;
- (f) if so, the details thereof in this regard; and
- (g) if not, the other steps Government propose to take to curb the menace?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. As per the study on 'Girls/Women in Prostitution in India' 2004, conducted by Ministry of Women and Child Development through Gram Niyojan Kendra, it is estimated that the number of sex workers in the country has increased from 2 million in 197 to 3 million in 2003. About 3/4th of the total number of sex workers are estimated to be victims of trafficking.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the India Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA 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 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 programmes for prevention of trafficking. 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.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Information as above.