

(d) if so, the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Eight Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeths which are constituent bodies of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan are not deemed Universities. However, there are three Sanskrit Vidyapeeths namely, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati, Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi and Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya, Kancheepuram, which are declared as deemed Universities under the UGC Act. It is ascertained from the Ministry of Defence that they follow the circular issued by the Department of Personnel dt. 21.11.1990 in the recruitment of religious teachers for defence forces, which, *inter-alia*, recognizes the degrees of Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeths.

Women Working as Prostitutes

*237. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women working as prostitutes in India, according to the post-1991 Central Welfare Board Survey;

(b) how many of them are working in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai;

(c) the number of Nepali girls brought from across the border and put into prostitution during the decade;

(d) what steps Government have taken to protect minor girls from being forced into prostitution; and

(e) how many brothels have been closed down and minor girls rescued in Maharashtra, after the 1996 judgement of Chief Justice of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) In 1992, the Central Social Welfare Board had conducted a multi-centric study on prostitution in six metropolitan cities namely, Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. As per the Study, the number of prostitutes will be 70,000 to 1,00,000 operating in the six cities.

(c) As per the above survey, 2.6% of India's prostitutes are Nepalese girls.

(d) The Government is very much concerned with the phenomenon of prostitution in society and has drawn up a national Plan of Action with the

objective to mainstream, to reintegrate women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The Plan of Action has been sent to the State Governments/ UT Administrations for setting up mechanisms evolving a consultative and coordinated process in preparing the plans and programmes for the prevention, rescue rehabilitation and reintegration of women and child victims. Apart from ensuring the stricter enforcement of the provisions for the Indian Penal Code, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, and the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, the Government is attempting to bring about an over all improvement in the status of women and children, especially the girl child through better education, health care and economic empowerment of women.

(e) The information is awaited from the Government of Maharashtra.

Reprieve to Polluting Industrial Units in Delhi

*238. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of NCT of Delhi has decided to give a reprieve to 327 industrial units that were served orders to be sealed in September 1999;

(b) if so, whether this step is in violation of a Supreme Court directive that all units, whose industrial effluents were polluting the river, directly or indirectly, be sealed;

(c) whether Government of NCT of Delhi has negotiated with these industrial units regarding land and financial support for relocating the units or installing effluent treatment plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BALLU): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 13.9.1999 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 725/94, directed the Government of NCT of Delhi to ensure that no industry, w.e.f. 1st November, 1999, discharges any industrial effluent into the river Yamuna directly or indirectly which does not conform to the prescribed parameters. Pursuant to the above order, the Govt. of NCT of Delhi closed down water polluting industrial units. Subsequently, some of these industrial units represented, stating that they have installed the effluent