

**Exploitation of Children**

3266. SHRI JANARDHANA  
POOJARY: Will (the Minister of  
HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report of a group of NHRC according to which at least 15% of commercial sex workers in Bombay, New Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore are children;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken/proposed to take any effective steps to save such children from exploitation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) As per the finding of the survey on prostitution conducted by Central Social Welfare Board in six metropolitan cities 14.9% of prostitutes were below 15 years of age at the time of entry into the profession.

(b) and (c) Apart from stricter enforcement of the existing provisions of the following laws:

(i) The Indian Penal Code;

(ii) The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act; and

(iii) The Juvenile Justice Act, the Government has referred to the Law Commission certain amendments in the major criminal laws to tackle sexual abuse of children, recommended by the National Commission for Women. The Government has also set up a Central Advisory Committee for an ongoing review and recommendations of both legal and non-legal approaches to the rescue and rehabilitation of children in prostitution. In addition, the Government is attempting to bring about an overall improvement in the status of children, especially girl children, through better education, health care and empowerment of women.

**"Exemption from forest (conservation) Act, 1980"**

3267. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: DR.  
MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that strict observance of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, often cause avoidable delays in implementation of developmental projects/programmes in Rajasthan and other States in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to exempt such projects/programmes from the provisions of the said Act by delegating powers to the State Governments wherein forest land is less than 50 hectares and is required specifically for public purpose, namely hospitals, school buildings, laying of pipelines, transmission lines, telephone lines, etc., if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) To avoid delays in implementation of developmental projects/programmes, the Government of India has simplified the guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 25.10.1992. The powers have been delegated to the Regional Offices of the Ministry to dispose off all proposals including decision regarding violation of the Act upto 5 ha. except in respect of proposals for regularisation of encroachments and mining. In respect of proposals involving diversion of forest area above 5 ha. and upto 20 ha. and all proposals for regularisation of encroachments and mining upto 20 ha., the proposals are examined by the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests in consultation with State Advisory Group and proposals are sent to this Ministry alongwith views of the Advisory Group for considering

and final decision. There is no proposal under consideration of this Ministry regarding delegation of powers to state Government wherein forest land is less than 50 ha. and is required specifically for public purpose namely hospitals, school buildings, laying of pipelines, transmission lines, telephone lines etc. as the guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been simplified.

**Allegations Against the Managing Director of Stale farms Corporation of India**

3168. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the Members of Parliament containing serious allegations against the Managing Director of the State Farms Corporation of India, and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any action has been taken thereon and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have decided to refer the case to the CBI, and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Three Members of Parliament S/Shri Gopal K. Tandel, Shri Shibu Soren and Shri Anant D. Dave have forwarded a petition by Shri Raj Singh, President, State Farms Corporation of India Employees Union against the Managing Director, State Farms Corporation of India alleging irregularities.

(b) The complaints have been referred to a senior officer of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for preliminary varification.

(c) No, Sir. Since the allegations are still under varification with reference to relevant records the question of further investigation by the CBI does not arise at this stage.

**Crop Insurance Claims of the Farmers of West Godavari District**

3269. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crop insurance claims of West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh made in 1995 have been settled;

(b) if so, the amount released under this account to the farmers; and

(c) the amount released to Nidamarru Mandal as crop insurance claim?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 6,01,35,276.67 has been approved by Government of India for release to the farmers of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh for Kharif 1995 season. Out of these claims, a sum of Rs. 1,40,63,772.28 has been approved for release to Nidamarru Mandal.

**‘उत्तर प्रदेश में प्लास्टिक नगरी की स्थापना’**

3270. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने खुर्जा में प्लास्टिक नगरी स्थापित करने के लिए कोई योजना केन्द्रीय सरकार को पर्यावरण और औद्योगिक प्रदूषण से संबंधित कानून के अंतर्गत स्वीकृति हेतु प्रेषित की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन उद्योगों से निकलने वाले कचरे तथा गंदे पानी से संबद्ध क्षेत्र के आस-पास के वातावरण तथा पेयजल स्रोतों पर कितना प्रतिकूल असर पड़ेगा;

(घ) इसके निपटान हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या व्यवस्था की गई है; और

(ङ) क्या स्थानीय लोगों ने इस योजना के प्रारंभ के बाद इन उद्योगों द्वारा होने वाले हानिकारक प्रदूषण के विरुद्ध अपना विरोध प्रकट किया है?