

(c) if so, the reaction of Government's thereto and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve the work of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c) As informed by Delhi Administration, four Zonal Water Testing Laboratories under Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking are collecting daily about 200 water samples from their respective zonal areas including rural areas to check on the water quality for its potability. The Zonal offices have been functioning during normal office hours to receive complaints from general public and to attend to them.

Besides this, the quality of water is also monitored by the Laboratory Staff of Water Treatment Plants every hour round the clock to ensure that the quality of water being supplied to the citizens of Delhi is of authorised standard.

### **Child Trafficking**

1437. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that trafficking in children leading to prostitution, is prevalent in the countries of South-East Asia and 400,000 children in the country have been made victims of such heinous trafficking; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to protect Indian Children from such exploitation and to rehabilitate those already victimised ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the floor of the house.

### **New Scheme for the Welfare of Street Children**

1438. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 24th April, 1993 regarding a new scheme—"Welfare Plan for street children"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the names of cities (State-wise) likely to be covered under the scheme and the budgetary provisions earmarked in the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme provides for non-formal education, vocational training, health check-up, nutrition and counselling to the disadvantaged, neglected and abused children. The scheme provides for implementation through voluntary organisations and monitoring through a City-level Task Force.

Eleven most populous cities have been selected during the current financial year. These are : Greater Bombay (Maharashtra), Calcutta (West Bengal), Delhi (Union Territory), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Bangalore (Karnataka), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Pune (Maharashtra), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

The Eighth Plan allocation is Rs. 8 crores.

### **Aged Couples in Neglected State**

1439. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the aged couples of the country are in a neglected state in-side and outside their houses;

(b) whether Government have enquired into the reasons therefor;

(c) what schemes Government propose to launch for their welfare together with the details thereof; and

(d) by when these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A new Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to the Aged was launched in 1992-93 with a budget provision of Rs. 1 crore. The scheme aims at providing physical, social, emotional, psychological and economic support to the aged. The object of the scheme is to encourage voluntary organisations to provide old-age homes, day-care centres, medicare services, foster care/adoption services and non-institutional services for the aged. Grant-in-aid is provided on the basis of applications received through the State Governments. A provision of Rs. 3 crore has been made under this scheme for 1993-94.

### **Prevalence of Devadasi System**

1440. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether "Devadasi" system is still prevalent in some parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to prohibit the system and to evolve a rehabilitation project for Devadasis to help them earn their livelihood with honour and dignity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI-MATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

### **Statement**

There is no specific law enacted by the Central Government for prohibiting the devadasi system in the country. However, this system attracts the provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) as amended in 1978 and 1986. The Act envisages setting up of protective homes or corrective institutions for the care, protection treatment, education and rehabilitation of the rescued women and girls.

The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have their own Acts viz. :

1. A.P. Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act 1988.