

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS
SET FOR 7th MARCH 2005**

Sex tourism and drug abuse

***81. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:**

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem of sex tourism and drug abuse affecting local people and children;

(b) whether Government are also aware that sex tourism takes place in lodges where they are maintaining registers of girls and photographs;

(c) whether the National Commission for Women has analysed the situational concerns of women of Pondicherry; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction to the recommendations of the Commission?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Women in its Gender Profile titled 'Situational Analysis of Women and Children' for the state of Pondicherry has indicated the maintenance of registers of girls and photographs by lodges in Pondicherry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The report of National Commission for Women has been received by UT of Pondicherry on 11th January 2005 which is being studied by them for taking appropriate action. However, no incidence regarding maintenance of registers of girls and photographs has been reported in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Government of Pondicherry gives very high importance to safe guard the rights and interest of women and children in Pondicherry. It has been conveyed by Government of Pondicherry that under no circumstances, sex/drugs will be allowed becoming driving force of the tourism in Pondicherry. In addition, the following action has been taken by the Central Government.

- (i) Sexual exploitation of women and children even by tourists is a crime as per Indian Penal Code and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. State law enforcement agencies therefore take action against anybody involved in such activities. In addition the Tourism

Department has constituted a Complaint cell and has not received any complaint in this matter.

- (ii) The Central Advisory Committee on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DWCD has deliberated on the reports of certain voluntary organizations on growing sex tourism in detail and decided to curb the menace through concerted action of all stake holders.
- (iii) The Department has instituted in association with UNICEF five on the spot study on the coastal areas of tourist importance to get the information related to sex tourism and paedophiles.
- (iv) To make the law enforcement and other agencies aware and sensitized on this specific issue, six regional workshops are proposed in the current year.
- (v) Society for Development Research and Training, an organization working in Pondicherry, has been sanctioned a Pilot project by the Department to combat trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation.

State languages in school curriculum

*82. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments have made their State language compulsory in the primary and secondary level school curriculum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would be the impact of such decision if other States also follow;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter to make State language compulsory in primary and secondary level school's curriculum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government is not aware whether any State Governments have made their respective State languages compulsory in the primary and secondary school curriculum. At the national level, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) prepares the curriculum for school education. The Central Board of