

Licenses to Prostitutes

†3. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to legalise prostitution by providing licenses to the women engaged in this profession;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have made any alternative arrangements to get them proper status in the society;

(d) whether they are now being provided with licenses after the failure of the above arrangements; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure a dignified life to such socially neglected and harassed women?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to prevent trafficking of women and children:

- (i) Implemented the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) which supplemented by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prohibits trafficking in persons including children.
- (ii) Drawn up a National Plan of Action (1998) and constituted a Central Advisory Committee to advise on trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and also to activate legal and law enforcement systems to strengthen implementation of the ITPA.
- (iii) Set up State Advisory Committees on Trafficking devolving authority and seeking to mobilize greater state resources in the fight against trafficking.
- (iv) Issued guidelines to the States for effective implementation of the Plan of Action and hold regular meetings to review the State action.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

- (v) Notified officers of the level of Inspector and above in the CBI as Trafficking Police Officers for investigation of inter-state trafficking cases.
- (vi) The DWCD has initiated a new scheme called SWADHAR for women in difficult situations applicable to victims of trafficking also. The Scheme provides for shelter, counselling, medical assistance, vocational training to rescued victims.
- (vii) The DWCD has formulated model Pilot Projects under grant-in-aid scheme for innovative projects for assistance to NGOs to combat trafficking and prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in source areas, traditional areas and destination areas through prevention, rescue and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on awareness generation, networking amongst various stake holders, counselling, non-formal education and vocational training for prevention of trafficking.
- (viii) As per Section 67 of the I.T. Act 2000, the display of lascivious photograph/films on computer through Internet is a punishable offence with imprisonment and fines. In case of first conviction it may be 5 years imprisonment or Rs. 1 lakh as fine or both. In the event of second and subsequent conviction it may increase to 10 years and fine upto Rs. 2 lakh or both.
- (ix) DWCD has requested the Ministry of Tourism to implement the Global Code of Ethics for tourism which prohibits sexual exploitation of children for purpose of sex tourism. In addition Chief Secretaries of all the State/UTs and Director General (Tourism) have also been requested to make it legally binding for the hotels, lodging/boarding houses to prominently display at the reception counter anti trafficking messages and penal provisions against sexual exploitation.
- (x) Concerned State Governments as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have enacted legislation to prohibit Devdasi and Jogin traditions of sexual exploitation.
- (xi) The NHRC and DWCD have initiated a Survey on trafficking within the country. The study will also investigate the casual

and behavioral aspects of all agents in trafficking. The DWCD has also commissioned a Survey to go into the magnitude of the problem, an estimate of the numbers involved and trafficking routes. Asian Development Bank has also completed a project in consultation with GOI, Bangladesh, Nepal on Cross Border Trafficking.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Same as in part (c).

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†*4. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' to various States, particularly to Himachal Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the details of Government's plan to achieve the target of this scheme and the progress made so far in various States, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Government released funds amounting to Rs. 1558.28 crores and Rs. 2698.38 crores to the States and UTs for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme during the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 respectively. Funds provided under the programme to the State of Himachal Pradesh amounted to Rs. 17.17 crores and Rs. 54.62 crores in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 respectively. A statement showing State-wise releases of funds under the programme during the period of 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 is enclosed. (See below)

(b) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme was launched in 2001-2002 in partnership with the States to achieve universalization of elementary education with the following goals:

- * All Children in School, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003;
- * All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;

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