

States have been given the autonomy, within the overall framework of the Scheme to entrust projects to a voluntary organization. However, Government of India does not give any grant direct to these organizations. Their management and control rests with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

Abolition of Devdasi System

2393. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of continuance of inhuman treatment of girls and women in the name of Devdasi System in Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the reasons why the Devdasi system is still in existence despite ban; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to abolish this heinous practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Devdasi System has been prevailing in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka already have Acts on provision and dedication of Devdasis. Under these Acts whoever performs, promotes, abets, takes part in dedication ceremony is liable for punishment. Further 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order protection of life and property of the citizens rests primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory dated 22nd December, 2015 regarding "Abolition of Devdasi System". The advisory is available at www.mha.nic.in.

Establishing Women Commission in States

2394. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to establish Women Commissions in every State and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court of India has directed Government to take necessary steps in this regard;

(c) whether Government has since started the process and if so, the details thereof; and