

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding prevailing practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) -laid.

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD (BHONGIR): The Hon. Supreme Court, recently, slammed the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), undertaken by certain communities in India. The Government, in response to Unstarred Question No.466 answered on 20th July stated that the IPC and POCSO are sufficient tools to prosecute offenders.

In view of this response, I then wonder, if such provisions existed well before, then how did the practise of FGM persist in the country? Therefore, for a traditional practice that has persisted over hundreds of years, sustained policy of advocacy and public sensitization is required. The concerned government agencies need to take the community into confidence, since mere punishment under these sections does not address the social implications of FGM.

I believe that specific provision to explicitly outlaw and punish FGM would give it more teeth. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the government should spell out detailed policy and specify measures to systematically eradicate this practice and I request the Government to do so.