

Report 'Progress of Nations 1995' the estimate of the number of Children under 18 years involved in prostitution in India is 3 to 4 lakhs. However, this is only an estimation and there are no reliable statistics available about the number of child prostitutes in India or in the different States.

(c) The Government of India has set up a Central Advisory Committee to frame recommendation/plan of action for both legal and non-legal approaches for the rescue and rehabilitation of child prostitutes. The recommendation of the Committee have been sent to the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments and to the State Governments for taking appropriate action. Many of the State Governments have set up State Advisory Committees within their jurisdiction for suggesting measures for the care, protection, treatment and rehabilitation of the young victims rescued from brothel houses. Notification appointing special Police Officers and constituting local non-official advisory bodies under Section 13 of the ITPA Act, 1956 have been issued by some States. The Central Government has been requesting the States/Union Territories from time to time to issue such notification wherever they have not done so.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children. Higher Penalties, punishments have been prescribed in cases relating to the prostitution of a child or a minor, under the Act.

The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 provides for the care, protection, treatment and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent juveniles including girls.

The enforcement of the Acts is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government have issued instructions from time to time to all States/Union Territories

for strict implementation of the Act. Meetings with DGPs of all the States have been held in this regard.

The Government has an extensive network of Short Stay Home and Homes set up under the Juvenile Justice Act for protection and rehabilitation of victims. The services of qualified doctors, psychiatrists are available in the Short Stay Homes. These services are available on part time basis in the Homes under Juvenile Justice Act.

A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 AD) of the Girl Child focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the ICDS infrastructure. Programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented to project positive images of girl children so as to bring about changes in social attitudes towards them.

Railway Projects

172. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects of widening of narrow/ Metre Gauge Railway Lines into broad gauge and construction of New Railway Lines in the Maharashtra State pending with Government with period of their pendency;

(b) their present status and reasons for the pendency; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) Requests were received from Maharashtra Government for the following new line and gauge conversion projects:

New Lines	Gauge Conversion
1. Wardha-Yavatmal -Pusad-Nanded (182 kms.)	1. Aurangabad-Parbhani (169 kms.)
2. Amravati-Narkhed (138 kms.)	2. Parbhani-Markhed-Adilabad (126 kms.)
3. Jalana-Khamgaon (115 kms.)	3. Gondia-Chanda Fort (242 kms.)
4. Pandharpur-Lonand (145 kms.)	4. Solapur-Bijapur (109 kms.)
5. Kolhapur-Ratnagiri (115 kms.)	5. Daund-Baramati (42 kms.)
6. Solapur-Beed-Aurangabad-Chalisingaon (300 kms.)	6. Miraj-Latur (359 kms.)
7. Pune-Nashik (190 kms.)	7. Pachora-Jamner (56 kms.)
	8. Nagpur-Nagbhid (120 kms.)
	9. Yavatmal-Murtizapur-Achalpur (101 kms.)

Of these items, the following projects have been taken up :-

New Lines	Gauge Conversion
1. Amravati-Narkhed (Will be completed in IXth Plan)	1. Aurangabad-Parbhani (completed)
2. Jalna-Khamgaon (To be taken up as an out of turn work in 1995-96 through Supplementary Demands for Grants)	2. Parbhani-Markhed-Adilabad (Will be completed in 1996-97)
	3. Gondia-Chanda Fort (Will be completed in 1996-97)
	4. Solapur-Bijapur-Gadag (Will be completed from Solapur to Bijapur in 1995-96 and the rest in 1997-98)
	5. Miraj-Latur (Will be completed in IXth Plan)
	6. Daund-Baramati (completed)

The remaining items will be considered in the future years as per availability of resources and their priority in the overall list of such projects for the whole country.

Mangroves

173. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mangroves exist in the coastal State of Kerala:

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) the details of total area in India covered by Mangroves and the main States/Union Territories where these exist; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect and preserve Mangroves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a), to (c) Mangroves in Kerala state occupy an area of 16.70 sq. kms. The details of the total area covered by mangroves in other States/Union Territories are given in the attached statement.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for the protection and preservation of mangroves include the following:

(i) A plan scheme has been launched to provide catalytic support to the State Governments/Union Territories for conservation and management of mangroves. On priority basis fifteen mangrove areas have been included in the national programme. An amount of Rs. 3.85 crores has been provided to the state governments for the implementation of management action plans. The activities under management action plans include survey and demarcation, natural regeneration, afforestation, nursery development, protection measures, education and awareness.

(ii) A National Committee on Westlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs has been constituted to advise the Government on appropriate policies for conservation of mangroves research, training and identification of priority areas. At the State level Steering Committees have been constituted for formulation and implementation of the management action plans.

(iii) Research studies have been commissioned through the universities and research institutions for conducting scientific studies and investigations on various aspects of mangrove ecosystems.

(iv) A network of protected areas consisting of National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves have been set up in the mangrove areas.

STATEMENT

State-wise Break up of Mangrove Areas (1991)

State	Area(in sq. km.)
1. Andhra Pradesh	378
2. Goa	3
3. Gujarat	419
4. Maharashtra	155
5. Orissa	195
6. Tamil Nadu	21
7. West Bengal	2119
8. Andaman & Nicobar	966
Total:	4256