

Implementation of Laws to Protect Women

282. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAV-
INCHANDRA MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MA-
HAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions for strict implementation of the laws to protect women and award exemplary punishment to the wrong-doers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b): The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime including crime against women is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They take action to register cases, undertake investigation and file cases in the Courts of Law. Adequate legal provisions already exist in the Indian penal code the criminal procedure code, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to detail effectively with all crimes against women including dowry death cases and cases of cruelty to married women. However, it is recognized that very much more needs to be done in the matter of implementation of the existing mechanisms, and Government is seized of the issues involved for further necessary action.

**Exploitation of Scheduled Caste/
Scheduled Tribe Girls**

983. SHRI HET RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether scheduled caste/tribe girls are socially and physically exploited under Jogin/Basavis/Parvathis system in various parts of the country;

(b) the State in which this evil system prevail and the estimated number of girls exploited in each of such States; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a): No particular survey has been conducted by the Government on the issue regarding the exploitation of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe girls under this evil.

(b) This evil system is prevalent in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra. So far as the number of girls exploited in this system in these States is concerned, no firm estimates are available. However, information as available from surveys conducted by these State Administrations from time to time, is given below in the statement.

(c) There is no specific Act enacted by Central Government for prohibiting the Jogin/Basavis/Parvathis system in the country. However, this system attracts the provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) as amended in 1978 and 1986. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act supplements the provisions of the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls. The Act also envisages setting up of protective homes or

corrective institutions for the care, protection treatment, education and rehabilitation of the rescued women and girls. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 is applicable to all the States/Union Territories and the implementation of this Act rests with the ad-

ministration of concerned State Governments/Union Territories.

The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have their own Acts for prohibition of this practice.

STATEMENT

Andhra Pradesh :

The incidence of the system of Jogins/Basavis in Andhra Pradesh has been surveyed through the District Administrations. The survey has revealed that the number of Jogins/Basavis Women is 16,287. Most of them belong to the Mala, Madiga and Dommarra communities. 80% of Jogins belong to the Scheduled Caste community.

Karnataka:

The system is prevalent in the Northern parts of Karnataka in the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar, Bellary, Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur. Surveys has been made to identify the number of Devdasis during 1983-84, which revealed that there were 8870 devdasis in the State. A majority of Devdasis belongs to the Scheduled Caste Community.

Maharashtra :

In this State the only incident reported since 1980 under the Bombay Devdasis Protection Act, 1934 on 17.2.1987, was in the District of Kolhapur. The rest of the information is gathered through media publicity and can not be said to be authentic.
