

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6718
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
DEVDAASI SYSTEM
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the "Devdasi" system is still prevailing in the temples of some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to abolish this system; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in that direction so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) Devdasi system is prevailing in the temples of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

(c)&(d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka already have Acts on prohibition and dedication of Devdasis. Under these acts whoever performs, promotes, abets, takes part in dedication ceremony is liable for punishment. Their harassment is taken care under Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 and Indian Penal Code.