

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1068
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
ADOLITION OF DEVADASI PRACTICE
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of the continued practice of Devadasi System in Karnataka and other parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to abolish this practice;
- (c) whether the cases have been registered in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith actions taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) As per information received from State Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra, the custom of Devadasi is in practice in these States. These States have Acts on prohibition and dedication of Devadasis. The States are also undertaking measures for providing welfare and rehabilitation of Devadasis. As far as Ministry of Women and Child Development is concerned, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purposes of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now proposed to be further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking for prostitution, including traditional practices of devadasis.

(c)&(d) As per information received from Government of Karnataka, 46 cases have been registered against the practice of Devadasis and are under trial in different courts.