

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3768
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011
PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has co-ordinated with other countries to prevent and combat trafficking of women and children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to counter this problem of trafficking?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam, the Government of India has ratified the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. To facilitate implementation of the Convention, Standard Operating Procedures were adopted by all SAARC Members States at the 3rd meeting of the Regional Task Force held on 28-29th May 2009. A decision has also been taken for establishment of uniform regional toll-free numbers for women and children.

India has also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

The Government is taking measures to combat trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation in the country. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prohibits trafficking in human beings, including children and lays down penalties for trafficking. Advisories for combating trafficking have been issued on 09.09.2009 and 12.10.2011 by the Government of India to all States/Union Territories. Further, the Ministry has been implementing the "Ujjawala" Scheme, under which financial assistance is being provided, amongst others, for rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation including repatriation of cross border victims. The Scheme is being implemented mainly by the Non-Governmental Organisations.