

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2982
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS AND SCHOOL DROPOUTS
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government desires the Panchayats to play a key role to help in curbing trafficking of minors and school dropouts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status thereof, State-wise especially in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh compared to other States; and
- (d) the plan prepared to tackle such problems in the Twelfth Five Year Plan, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) to (d): Panchayats do not have penal powers against persons engaged in criminal activities. The Twelfth Plan document has not been finalized. However, the Working Group Report of the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 'Women's Agency and Empowerment' for the Twelfth Plan has recognized the role of Panchayats in effective delivery of services and role of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in ensuring gender sensitive good governance, which applies across the country, including Andhra Pradesh.