GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1673 ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012 SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN BY TOURISTS Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Tandon Shri Lal Ji

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the cases of sexual harassment of women and children by tourists in the country;

(b) whether sixty per cent of the children, out of these are falling prey to the inhuman behaviour of the tourists and they are also made to smuggle narcotics; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such cases and the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (c): As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), data pertaining to cases of sexual harassment of women and children by tourists is not maintained centrally by NCRB.

As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India 'Police' and 'Public Order' are "State subjects" and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is deeply concerned with the welfare of children and through various schemes and advisories to the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations, augments the efforts of the States /UTs.

A detailed advisory dated 14th July, 2010 has been sent by the Central Government to all State Governments and UT Administrations wherein States/UTs have been advised to ensure all steps for improving the safety conditions in schools/institutions, public transport used by students, children's parks/play grounds, residential localities/roads etc. It has also been advised that the crime prone areas should be identified and a mechanism be put in place to monitor infractions in such areas for ensuring the safety and security of students, especially girls.

Apart from the above mentioned, Ministry of Home Affairs has recently issued an Advisory on missing children on 31st January, 2012 wherein the States / UTs have been advised on various measures needed to prevent trafficking and trace the children. These includes computerization of records, DNA profiling, involvement of NGOs and other organizations, community awareness programmes etc. to facilitate the tracing of missing children.

Ministry of Home Affairs has also circulated a comprehensive pro-forma to States / UTs on missing children for better matching of missing and found children.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development under consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs is also developing a National Portal for tracking of missing ' and ' found ' children. Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing Integrated Child Protection Scheme.