

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2844
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
RESETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR SEX WORKERS
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of Red Areas operational in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any data about the number of sex workers and their children in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT- wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted /proposes to conduct any survey to identify such Red Areas in the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to implement any resettlement scheme for sex workers and their children and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has received any memorandum/proposals from various organizations for either eliminating or legalising prostitution in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon till date; and
- (f) the other remedial measures taken/ being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A comprehensive study on 'Girls and Women in Prostitution', conducted in 2004, which was sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, had estimated that there were 2.8 million prostitutes in the country of which 36% are children. The State/Union Territory wise data on number of girls/women in prostitution, as estimated by the Study, is given in Annex.

(d): The Ministry of Women and Child Development has undertaken a pilot project which is being jointly implemented by Central for Advocacy and Research (CFAR), community based organizations in close coordination with National Resource Centre for Women and State Resources Centre for Women. The project is aimed at designing the process of social inclusion plan for vulnerable and marginalized communities and mainstreaming sexual workers and sexual minorities in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

(e) to (f): The Government received a suggestion for legalizing the profession of flesh trade and for taking concrete steps for the welfare of sex workers and their children. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings, including children, for purpose of prostitution and lays down procedures.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing "Ujjawala" – a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-integration and Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation. As on date, 273 projects including 151 Protective and Rehabilitative Homes have been supported under the Scheme. These rehabilitative centres are given financial support for providing shelter and basic amenities such as food, clothing, medical care, legal aid, education in the case the victims are children, as well as for undertaking vocational training and income generation activities to provide the victims with alternate livelihood option.

In addition, the Ministry of Women and Children is implementing following schemes for women and children which can be availed by sex workers and their children:-

(i) The Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers which provided day care facilities to children (age group 0-6 years) of working mothers belonging to families whose monthly income is not more than Rs.12,000/-.

(ii) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which provides a package of six services viz. supplementary nutrition, immunization, referral services, health check-up, pre -school education and health and nutrition education to children below six years of age and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers, irrespective of their economic status.

(iii) The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) which has various components including extending emergency outreach services through Childline toll free number 1098, open shelters for children in need in urban and semi urban areas, support for family based non-institutional care through sponsorship, foster care, adoption and after care and institutional care for children and juveniles. It caters to all children in need of care and protection, particularly beggars, street and working children, rag pickers, small vendors, street performers, orphaned, deserted, trafficked and run -away children, children of migrant population and any other vulnerable group of children.