

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4932
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
SAARC CONVENTION ON TRAFFICKING
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children has been constituted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by the SAARC convention to deal effectively and consistently with the various aspects of prevention, intervention and suppressing of trafficking in women and children;
- (d) whether an internal task force has been created with other concerned ministries at the national level so that all the issues relating to trafficking could be discussed jointly; and
- (e) if so, the representatives of the said task force and the extent to which India has been able to curb trafficking in women and children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

- (a) to (c): The SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution was signed by SAARC Member States on 5th January, 2002 which came into force on 15th November, 2005 after ratification. Pursuant to the ratification, a Regional Task Force was constituted to implement the SAARC Convention. Five meetings of Regional Task Force of SAARC have been held so far. The main measures are as under: i. Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution was adopted by all SAARC Member States.
- ii. India has bilateral mechanism with Bangladesh and four Task Force meetings have been held so far.
 - iii. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has prepared a training manual on Human Trafficking -handbook for Investigators' for sensitizing police personnel.
 - iv. The BPR&D organized in 2009 International Training of Trainers for Police Personnel of SAARC countries.
 - v. A SAARC workshop on Human Trafficking for member States was conducted in 2012.
 - vi. A study tour for SAARC Member States to learn from the experiences of the Anti Human Trafficking Units established in various districts of India was organized in India in 2013.
 - vii. The Ministry of Home Affairs has launched a Web Portal on Anti Human Trafficking ([www. stophumantrafficking-mha.nic.in](http://www.stophumantrafficking-mha.nic.in)) in 2014.
- (d) to (e): No such Task Force has been created. However, Government of India has taken serious steps to combat human trafficking and has adopted a multi-pronged approach alongwith concerned Ministries and stakeholders, as detailed below:-
- (i) Enactment of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, wherein Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code has been substituted with Section 370 and 370A of IPC which provide for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of Human Trafficking.
 - (ii) Establishment of Anti Human Trafficking Units(AHTUs) in 225 districts of the country.
 - (iii) Issued comprehensive Advisories on Human Trafficking (available at <http://stophumantrafficking-mha.nic.in/forms/Sublink1.aspx?lid=92>).
 - (iv) Organized quarterly meetings with Nodal Officers of AHTUs and concerned Ministries to review the efforts taken to combat Human Trafficking.
 - (v) The Ministry of Women and Child Development constituted a Central Advisory Committee (CAC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, MWCD, Government of India to advise on issues relating to trafficking.
 - (vi) 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.