

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
AMENDMENTS IN THE IMMORAL TRAFFIC PREVENTION ACT .

460

Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a): whether several amendments have been proposed by her Ministry in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, to widen its scope and make the punishments more stringent;
- (b): if so, the details thereof and the rationale therefor;
- (c): the efficacies of the shelter homes run by her Ministry, their number and their average annual occupancy; and
- (d): to what extent the Ujjawala scheme has been effective in prevention of trafficking?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a),(b),(c)&(d):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a),(b),(c)&(d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 460 for 21.12.2009 by Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania and Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi regarding `Amendments in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act`

(a)&(b)Yes, Sir. The proposed Amendments inter-alia include raising the age of the child from 16 to 18 years, having a comprehensive definition for `trafficking in persons`, laying down punishment for a person who visits a brothel for purpose of sexual exploitation of trafficked victims, providing for `in-camera` trial to victims to protect their privacy and constitution of Central and State Authorities for dealing with trafficking. There is also a proposal to make Amendments to provide for enhanced punishment for perpetrators of the crime such as brothel keepers and traffickers. The purport of these Amendments is to extend the coverage of the Act, discourage trafficking and at the same time provide safeguards to the trafficked victims.

(c)The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been providing financial assistance to NGOs for setting up Shelter Homes. Under the Ujjawala Scheme, 58 Protective and Rehabilitative Homes have been set up which can accommodate nearly 2900 trafficked victims. These Homes provide facilities such as shelter, food, clothing, medical care, legal aid, education and vocational training to these victims. In addition, there are 384 Short-Stay Homes and 314 Swadhar Homes across the country which can accommodate 28,405 women in difficult circumstances including the trafficked victims.

(d)The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the Scheme of Ujjawala, in December, 2007 wherein, prevention of trafficking is included as a specific component. There has been an encouraging response to the Scheme. Financial assistance has already been provided to 94 NGOs for activities which include formation of community vigilance groups and adolescents groups, organizing sensitization workshops/seminars and awareness generation through mass media. In addition, the Ministry conducts training and capacity building as well as sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking. Since, prevention of trafficking is a long term activity it is difficult to assess its impact in such a short period.