

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 799
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

TRAFFICKING HOTSPOTS

799. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has identified the trafficking prone hotspots in the country that need immediate attention to address the issue of trafficking;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the potential increase in trafficking cases owing to increased vulnerability, job insecurity and lack of livelihood options;
- (c) whether Government has included survivors of human trafficking on Committees that oversee trafficking and rehabilitation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

- (a) to (d): ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, it is the primary responsibility of respective State Governments and Union Territory Administration (UTs) to take necessary steps for preventing and countering human trafficking. Specific information with regard to trafficking hotspots is not maintained by the Central Government. Further, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles crime statistics reported to it by the States and Union Territories (UTs) and publishes the same in its annual publication ‘Crime in India’ which includes data on Human Trafficking also. The latest published report is of the year 2021.

Nevertheless, the Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments/ UT Administrations by undertaking various initiatives and measures in this regard and has provided financial assistance under ‘Nirbhaya Fund’ to all States/ UTs during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 for strengthening the existing Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and for establishing new AHTUs covering all districts of the States/ UTs. In addition, the Central Government also provides financial assistance to States and UTs for holding “Judicial Colloquiums” and “State level conferences” on periodic basis for sensitizing judicial and police officials and to make available to them updated information on latest provisions of law relating to human trafficking.

Further, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an 'Advisory' on 06.07.2020 to all States/ UTs on preventing and combating human trafficking especially during the period of COVID-19 pandemic. The Advisory is also available on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs (www.mha.gov.in). Ministry of Women and Child Development has also issued an Advisory on 23.10.2020 to all States/ UTs on curbing and tackling human trafficking during the period of COVID-19 pandemic and also for the purpose of awareness generation.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development under the umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women named 'Mission Shakti' is implementing the component of 'Shakti Sadan', under which erstwhile schemes of 'Ujjawala' and 'Swadhar Greh' have been merged. The component of 'Shakti Sadan' has provisions for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation across the country. State Governments are responsible for identifying districts that need immediate attention to address the issue of trafficking, as well as for furnishing proposal to the Central Government for seeking financial support for that purpose. The objectives of the scheme inter alia include (i) providing rehabilitation services, both immediate and long-term, to the victims by providing basic amenities/ needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counseling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training, and (ii) facilitating reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large.
