

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3150
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.01.2018

DEVADASI SYSTEM

3150. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that young women are still being initiated into the Devadasi system in some States and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to submit a report in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to bring a suitable legislation to ban this system and if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
- (d) the other corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) The custom of Devdasi was in practice in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) to (d) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order protection of the life and property of the citizens rests primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory dated 22nd December, 2015 regarding "Abolition of Devadasi System". This advisory is available at www.mha.nic.in.