

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1458
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNITS

1458. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to enhance coordination among Anti-Human Trafficking units (AHTUs) and ensure effective operations between States and Central Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the status of the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, which was expected to be table in the Parliament's 2022 Monsoon Session?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are "State-List" subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the responsibility for preventing and countering the crime of human trafficking primarily vests with respective State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs). Nevertheless, the Government of India attaches highest priority to the safety and security of women and children and has provided financial assistance of about Rs. 250 crore to the States/ UTs in the last 2-3 years for establishing Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) in all Districts of the States/ UTs and for establishing a Women Help Desk (WHD) in every Police Station of the State/ UT. Both AHTUs and WHDs provide support to women and children who are in need of any kind of assistance and to coordinate action with regard to preventing and countering incidents of human trafficking.

As of now 788 AHTUs are functional in all districts of the country including 30 in Border Guarding Forces such as Border Security Force and Sashastra Seema Bal. Further, 13557 WHDs are functional at Police Stations across the country. Financial assistance is also provided to States/ Union Territories to hold 'Judicial Colloquiums' and 'State level conferences' for sensitizing law officers/ Police Officers, etc. on issues relating to trafficking.

States/ UTs have also been advised to establish institutional mechanism at all levels of the State/ UT i.e. at State/ UT Headquarter level, District level and Police Station level, with a view to address the issue of human trafficking in a comprehensive manner.

Further, Government has been supplementing the efforts of the States/ UTs in this regard by providing them guidelines on preventing and countering human trafficking, etc. in the form of various Advisories issued from time to time. Government has also launched a national level communication platform namely Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC), which facilitates dissemination and sharing of information amongst Police authorities of all States and UTs about significant crimes, including human trafficking cases, across the country on real time basis and thus enabling inter-State coordination amongst the Police officers dealing with various crimes, including human trafficking. For addressing cross-border/ transnational issues of human trafficking, bilateral Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Cambodia and Myanmar; and multilateral instruments on human trafficking have also been signed by India.

In addition, various schemes/ projects have been appraised by the Government under Nirbhaya Fund for providing assistance to needy women including the victims of trafficking, which include One Stop Centres (733 OSCs are functional); Universalisation of Women Helplines (functional in 34 States/ UTs), Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)/ mobile app based system for emergencies (functional in all States/ UTs).

(c): The Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) introduced "The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill 2018" in 16th Lok Sabha for consideration during the Monsoon Session of 2018. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 26.07.2018, but could not be considered in the Rajya Sabha due to prorogation of Sixteenth Lok Sabha. The Bill lapsed on dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha. In the light of the discussions in the Lok Sabha during the passing of the Bill, the Bill has been re-drafted by the MWCD to make it responsive to ground realities and requirements of the nation.
