

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 69**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02ND FEBRUARY, 2021/ MAGHA 13, 1942 (SAKA)

INCREASE IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

69. DR. AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the threat of human trafficking in the wake of the ongoing pandemic will be exponentially high due to poor economic conditions;

(b) if so, the details of the Government's plans to prevent human trafficking of economically backward individuals, if any; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a) to (c): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Prevention and combating the crime of human trafficking is the responsibility of State Governments who are competent to take appropriate action as per extant provisions of law. However, taking cognizance of the risks of human trafficking during COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a comprehensive advisory on 6.7.2020 to all States and UTs for countering and combating human trafficking. In this context, some of the measures they were advised to undertake are as follows:

(i) Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) be set up and upgraded in all districts of the country on urgent basis, for which around Rs. 100 crore was released to all States and UTs.

(ii) Coordination mechanism amongst various Departments of States and UTs be evolved to handle issues of human trafficking and this should be monitored/reviewed at the highest level in all States and UTs.

(iii) Special awareness generation campaigns be organized by the District Administration at all levels to protect vulnerable sections of society, especially those who are vulnerable to fall prey in the hands of unscrupulous persons who may dupe them with promises of better life and wages.

(iv) Law enforcement agencies may engage with representatives of local Panchayats, community leaders, village watch and ward, Municipal Committees, Resident Welfare Association etc. in identification, tracing and recovery of trafficked persons.

(v) Specific 'intelligence' and 'surveillance' mechanism to identify gangs and their modus operandi to exploit people and link with such matters be

looked into by the Police Department and a close watch on known criminals and traffickers be kept by local police.

(vi) Preventive steps such as identification of children in distress, watching out for suspicious persons, keeping special vigil at transit points, viz. Railway Stations, Bus Depots, Airports, Seaports, Border areas etc. and identify vulnerable population and susceptible pockets in the State and UTs be undertaken by the Police officers.

(vii) States and UTs should ensure that shelters for destitute women and children in need should remain open and additional facilities be made available for women and girls and virtual/ telephone counseling services be provided to them.
