

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1191

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2015/AGRAHAYANA 18, 1937 (SAKA)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH ASIA

1191. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that human trafficking in South Asia is often referred to as one of the fastest growing transnational organized crime;

(b) whether India among South Asian countries acts both as a source and destination with women and children coerced from Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to land up in middle-east and Africa; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to combat trafficking?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a): An estimated 150,000 persons are trafficked within and from South Asia every year for sex work, labour, forced marriages, organ trade. As an organized crime, globally, human trafficking is pegged after illegal drugs and arms smuggling.

(b): Incidents have been reported wherein Nepali women and children have been trafficked to Middle East and other destinations through India.

(c): The Government of India has taken various steps to combat human trafficking and has adopted a multi-pronged approach alongwith concerned Ministries and stakeholders, as detailed below:-

(i) Enactment of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, wherein Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code has been substituted with Section 370 and 370A of IPC which provide for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of Human Trafficking.

(ii) Establishment of Anti Human Trafficking Units(AHTUs) in 225 districts of the country.

(iii) Issued following advisories on Human Trafficking to all States/UTs:

- Advisory for preventing crime of human trafficking dated 9.9.2009.
- Advisory on preventing and combating Human Trafficking during Commonwealth Games dated 10.9.2010.
- Advisory on enrollment of police officials in IGNOU certificate course on Anti Human Trafficking dated 12.1.2011.
- Advisory on missing children - measures needed to prevent trafficking and trace the children - dated 31.1.2012
- Advisory on Human Trafficking as Organised Crime dated 30.4. 2012.
- Advisory on Preventing and combating human trafficking in India- dealing with foreign nationals dated 1.5. 2012
- Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) to handle trafficking of children for child labour dated 12.8.2013
- [Advisory on MHA Web Portal on Anti Human Trafficking - dated 5.5.2014](#)
- Advisory for associating SSB and BSF in crime meetings dated 23.7.2015

These advisories are available at MHA's Web Portal on Anti Human Trafficking ([www.stophumantrafficking-mha.nic.in](http://www.stophumantrafficking-mha.nic.in)).

(iv) The SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children was signed on January 5, 2002, which entered into force on November 15, 2005 after ratification by all the Member States. The SAARC Convention calls for cooperation among Member States in dealing with various aspects of prevention, interdiction, and suppression of trafficking in women and children for prostitution, repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.

(v) In May 2011, the Indian Government ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

(vi) India has entered into a bilateral mechanism with Bangladesh to prevent and combat human trafficking and a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) between India and Bangladesh has also been signed in June, 2015.