



SAVE

Tiruppur Update

Volume 10 issue 7

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SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

- ⇒ Garments
- ⇒ Labour
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- ⇒ Migrants
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Bill

Social Awareness and Voluntary Education (SAVE)

SAVE (Social Awareness and Voluntary Education) is a registered Indian Non-Governmental Organization, promoted in the year 1993, as a growing response to the challenge of preventing the child labor practices. Internalizing the fact that the issue of child labor needs to be addressed in a multipronged strategy SAVE expanded its intervention among women and textile and garment industry workers focusing promotion of the comprehensive rights of the garment and textile industry workers and empowerment of women. Currently SAVE reaches out to children, young women, women, textile and garment workers including the migrant workers.

Since 1995, SAVE has been carrying out programs among children in distress primarily among the children working in textile and hazardous industries with specific emphasis on promotion of health and educational rights through special schooling for the drop out children and child laborers and through vocational training support. Community sensitization is one of the main activities towards prevention of child labor. SAVE initiated campaigns and advocacy strategies could mainstream the issues of child labor and the plight of young girls in the garment and textile industry. SAVE has the unique credibility of being the champion organization in exposing the child labor issues in Tiruppur.

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Chief Editor : A.Aloysius
Executive Editor : A.Irudayam and
A.Viyakulamary

No. 5, Iswarya Nagar,
Dharapuram Road, K.N.P Colony,
TirupPur-641 608, Tamilnadu, India
Ph. 0421-2428100, Fax: 0421-2428200
E-mail: savetirupur@gmail.com /
save-ngo@eth.net / savealov@gmail.com
Website : www.savengo.org

GARMENTS

CM takes up garment exporters' plight with Union Minister

The Hindu July 2, 2018

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/cm-takes-up-garment-exporters-plight-with-union-minister/article24307501.ece>

Tiruppur: The garment exporters in Tiruppur are having a contented feeling as Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami exclusively took up the major grievances in the cluster with the Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu.

This was following the recent communication of the exporters here with the State Government highlighting the issues that hindered the growth of the cluster during the just ended 2017-18 fiscal year. The Chief Minister had requested the Union Minister to take up the request for enhanced interest subvention from 3 % to 5 % for the apparel sector. This apart, the exporters' plea for increasing the duty drawback to remain cost competitive in the global markets was also highlighted.

The exporters in Tiruppur cluster were also struggling to get a level playing field in European and American apparel markets due to the preferential trade tariff advantages enjoyed by Bangladesh and few other direct competitor countries.

For this, the Chief Minister had suggested for steps to expedite signing of free trade agreements with European Union, United States of America and United Kingdom.

Degenerating job work industry - industrialists are worried

Daily Thanthi July 5, 2018

Tiruppur: The central government has implemented GST in the name of common tax throughout the country. After this taxation, the prices of raw materials required for garments have been increased. Again, the percentage of concession provided for the export business was also decreased. As a result of it, the garment business is severely affected. A large number of foreign business men and merchants were coming to Tiruppur every day. So, the garments business was developed more and more orders were received by the export and garments manufacturing companies. The job work companies received orders from them. So, the job work companies were also developing. Again, a large number of workers who were dependent on them entertained the employments. At this point, the job work companies are becoming degenerated and so the industrialists are seen regretful.

Regarding this, the job work industrialists said

We are doing our works by depending upon the export companies and internal garment manufacturing companies. On account of current problems, the orders placed with us are decreasing. Various job work companies have increased the charges. The reason that the job works including tailoring, printing and ironing are becoming degenerated. So, it seems to be dangerous that a large number worker will lose the job opportunities. Hence we are all regretful. So, the central and state government support us as to enable to manage the problems.

Thus, they have said.

Garment exporters welcome hike in customs duty

The Hindu July 18, 2018

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/garment-exporters-welcome-hike-in-customs-duty/article24444286.ece>

Coimbatore: The Tiruppur Exporters' Association has welcomed the hike in basic customs duty for 23 knitted garment items announced by the Union Government.

Association president Raja M. Shanmugham has said in a press release that the government has increased the basic customs duty from 10 % to 20 % for one knitted fabric variety too.

Textile imports from countries such as China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Cambodia are on the rise. In 2017-18, import of ready-made garments went up to Rs. 4,983 crore from Rs. 3,994 crore the previous year. Leading retail stores in the country have also started importing garments from Bangladesh and other countries.

The association had made several representations to the Ministry of Textiles seeking higher customs duty on ready-made garments. The industry had submitted a white paper on the issue to the Ministry and explained the threat of China setting up factories in India's neighbouring countries to take advantage of low customs duty and low wages in those countries.

The hike in customs duty will protect the domestic garment industry, he said

Sanjay Jain, chairman of confederation of Indian Textile Industry, said in a press release that this is a positive move by the Government and a relief to garment and carpet manufacturers. These units were going through immense pressure. After the implementation of GST last year, cheaper imports came in because of substantial drop in import duty.

TEA wants buyers to increase the garment price**The Hindu July 19, 2018**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/tea-wants-buyers-to-increase-the-garment-price/article24456204.ece>

Coimbatore: The Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) has requested its members to ask their buyers to increase the garment prices by 10%.

The committee in its executive committee meeting held recently discussed on the increase in cotton yarn prices, job working charges, prices of the accessories and other related expenses. TEA president Raja M. Shanmugham felt that continuation of the same price would lead to a difficult situation. Hence, the executive committee unanimously decided to ask TEA members to inform buyers to increase the garment price by 10 % while finalising new orders to compensate increase in cotton yarn prices and job working charges.

'SISMA' demands to revise the reform of new law**Dinakaran July 28, 2018**

Tiruppur: The SISMA Association had raised a demand in accordance with the reforms to be made in the law of small and mini companies that will affect them.

Regarding this, Babuji, the secretary of Seconds Collar Shirts and Inner Wears Small Scale Manufacturers Association (SISMA) wrote a letter to the central minister.

As per the letter, the small and mini companies are categorized on the basis of the investment being made. A company with machineries valuable for Rs. 25lakhs below will be considered as mini company. Again, a company with an investment of Rs. 25lakhs to Rs. 5crore are considered as the small company. And, a company with investment of Rs. 5crore to Rs. 10crore will be regarded as the middle company. Under this circumstance, we have demands to reduce the value of investment of small and middle companies as Rs. 2 crores and requested to announce the companies with Rs. 2 crores and above it as the small and middle companies. To make changes in the practice the revision of law was passed in the parliament in the year of 2015.

In spite of making consultations with the proprietors of small, mini and middle enterprises' proprietors and association, the concerned persons had consulted the same with the owners of big companies and placed the revision of new law on 23rd.

According to the revised new law, the companies within business of Rs. 5 crore will be

regarded as the many company. And the companies with the turnover of Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 75 crore will be brought under the category of small company. Again, a company with an investment of Rs. 75 crore to Rs. 250 crore will be categorised as the middle company.

We feel a sense of fear on account of the implementation of the revised law the small and mini companies will be severely affected. As a result of it, the number of self-employment entrepreneur will be decreased. Again, it is very important to specify the category of people who invest the amount of Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore in such a way to entertain the government's concession and other benefits. The implement of new law is favourable for the development of corporate companies.

As a result of the implementation of new law, the small and mini companies will automatically get degenerated and vanished. There is common opinion and the proprietors of small and mini company that the government is encourage the big companies in the name of small, mini and middle companies.

So, this law must be revised and reformed before the implement

LABOUR

Women workers lost employment – those who did their job works at home

Daily Thanthi July 12, 2018

Tiruppur: The garment manufacturing industry in Tiruppur is regained as the major industry. So, many people have selected the industry and operate the garment companies. so, a person can see the garment companies wherever happens to look at all the directions.

Again, a large number of job works are carried on in support of garment companies more than 8 lakhs of workers are employed in these companies. Again, the woman workers are doing the job work by staying at their homes. The provide the works not only to the job work companies but also supply the garments for the job works in accordance with the piece rate charges. So, the woman workers were depending only on these job works. At the present, those woman workers have become unemployed.

Regarding this, the women workers involved in the job works said:

The garments will be supplied to the job work companies in Tiruppur for the further processes. Just like the labourers working in the garment companies. The women workers nearby the houses receive the garments and does the job works on the piece rate basis. Until

the recent times the garment industry was seen in the progress. But, at the present it has become degenerated. And because of this the receipt of orders for the job works are decreased. So, the woman workers who were depending on the job works have lost the employment opportunities. So, the central government as well as the state government must take initiatives to revive the job work industry.

Thus, they have said.

DYEING

PCB shuts down dyeing unit for causing pollution

The New Sunday Express July 1, 2018

Tiruppur: Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board officials, acting on increasing complaints of pollution by dyeing units, shut down a large scale dyeing units in Nallur after a surprise raid. Chemtech, the first dyeing unit in the region to install the RO system in their treatment plant had not followed the sewage treatment process in the recent past. A huge stock of chemical effluent was found during the inspection.

Even as authorities at the unit claimed that the treatment plant had not been functioning properly recently, the TNPCB recommended closure. Electricity supply to the unit was cut and closure order was issued on Saturday.

Dyers Association of Tiruppur issued a warning against any malpractice in effluent treatment a few months ago, when contacted, association President Nagarajan said, "Because of one or two units involving in such practices, the whole industry will be affected in the long run. Therefore, we have issued a strict warning not to discharge chemical effluents without treatment to ensure that Zero Liquid Discharge do not turn out to be a failure."

Talking about the effects of the malpractices, he said that this would destroy the industry not only in Tiruppur, but ZLD systems wherever they had been installed.

Power disconnected to dyeing units

The Hindu July 26, 2018

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/power-disconnected-to-dyeing-units/article24515935.ece>

Tiruppur: The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has dis-

connected power connections to 12 dyeing units for letting out untreated water here on Wednesday. During the inspection conducted by the officials of the Tiruppur North Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, it was found that the 12 units flouted the rules in discharging untreated sewage.

SPINNING MILL

Shortage of workers in the Textile Mills in TamilNadu - Expectation from other states Dinakaran July 3, 2018

Coimbatore: To manage the shortage of workers in TamilNadu Textile Mills, the administrators are making efforts through the agents to bring the workers from the other state.

About 800 large scale mills and 1200 small scale mills are being operated in TamilNadu. About 7 to 8 lakhs of workers are required to work in the total numbers of 2000 mills in TamilNadu but in the textile mills in TamilNadu about 10 percent to 80 percent of labour shortage is seen. So, about 20 percent or 2 lakhs of workers are wanted to work in these mills. As a result of it about 30 percent of production in these textile mills are decreased.

So, the administrators of these mills are taking efforts to employ the workers under the categories such as daily wager, contract labourers and trainees.

So, the workers belonging to TamilNadu are not interested to go for work in the TamilNadu Textile Mills. So, they appoint the workers who remain unemployed are brought to these textile mills through the agents. Accordingly, about 40 percent of workers belonging to the other states particular from the North are working in these mills. Even then the shortage of workers are not fulfilled. So, they are making efforts to bring more workers from the Northern states through the agents.

Regarding this, the opinion is expressed on behalf of the Textile Mills

There are agents to bring the workers from every state, notably Bihar, Odissa and Uttarkand. They are all brought in groups consisting of 100 or 200 persons on the commission basis by the agents. Accordingly, each worker must pay an amount of Rs. 20 as a commission for one work. Suppose a worker happens to work for 25days in a month, the agent will get an amount of Rs.500. Likewise, about 100 workers are employed an amount of Rs. 50,000 will be earned through them. An agent earns an amount of Rs. 2lakhs per months as a commission. But, after a few months, the labourers are left from their services. So, the shortage of workers is continued. Thus, the textiles mills are being operated only by depending on the agents in accordance with textile mills owners.

Women labourers who are working in textile companies lose their lives in Accident

Dinamani July 23, 2018

Namakkal: Women laborers who are working in private textile companies are losing their lives in accident while fetching to the work. This is happening in a very numerous way for the past five years.

Women workers who had expired in this accident are within the age of 40 and hence their children are left helpless by losing their mothers.

In Tamilnadu, Maximum textile companies are in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Karur and Erode. There are less number of textiles in Trichy, Namakkal and Salem districts.

These textiles are running in three shifts every day and there are approximately 100 – 500 workers working in every shift. 90% of them are women. As there was a heavy drought, agricultural practice had declined from 10-25 percent and hence women who have lost their job had migrated towards the textile jobs.

Among them, there are many women workers who were unmarried are staying in hostel and working. Apart from them, women who are coming every day were fetched by the company vehicle.

The company vehicles are driven to fetch the workers who are 10-50 Kms away from the company and when the work gets over they are dropped at their respective places. There are nearly 10-20 vehicles involved in picking up the workers from their places. Those companies who were facing the issue of having young women in hostel used this opportunity and are running this company.

Nowadays 30% of the villages which are in and around Salem, Karur, Namakkal, Erode, Dindugul, Coimbatore and Tiruppur are having vehicle facilities.

Children become orphans

According to the sensex of the Tamilnadu spinning mill association, there are 650 textile companies in TamilNadu. Half of these spinning mills are in the suburban villages near to the national and state highways. There are more than hundreds of laborers are picked up by vehicle of the textile companies.

Among them, there are 90% of women workers are under the age of 40. Agricultural practice had declined hence women who have lost their job had moved towards the textile jobs in order to save their children. They are expiring in the road accidents continually.

Last month, in Namakkal district 6 women labourers who were travelling in the textile company vehicle expired in Kumarapalayam. More than 15 of them got injured. Company didn't give any compensation to the family members of the expired and the injured people. Government also didn't give any compensation. The children who became orphan were left helpless and lost their livelihood.

Insurance for 25 lakhs

N.Velusamy, secretary of CITU trade union said as follows.

Next to Maharashtra, there are maximum number of textiles in TamilNadu. They were forced to work for overtime and they are facing sexual related harassment. Meanwhile women who are in need of the job and to safeguard the family, they are working in the textiles. Women workers who were picked up by the company vehicle are continually making road accidents. For the past 5 years, the textile company vehicles in TamilNadu were met with the accidents and 30 of them lost their lives and more than 100 of them were injured and they can't even walk and they were at home.

Because of the deaths, their children get affected very badly. Their husbands are doing second marriage within few months. In most of the family, children don't even get food and they were forced to raise their hands to someone for their food.

To make their children live with privilege, women as a mother is working. But, when she faces the accidents and loses the life their children are left helpless and their children become orphan. Textile women laborers and their children are in need of job safety now.

According to this, textile workers should be provided with Rs.500 as a minimum wage for 8 hours of work. Within 8 days of their joining in the company, they should be provided with 25 lakh life insurance policy. This policy benefits should reach the children of the workers. In addition, PF deductions and medical facility through ESI scheme must also be there. As the school vehicles are inspected very year by the Regional transport officers, the textile company vehicles must also be inspected once in a year.

Uniform price for yarns in OE mills

The New Indian Express July 26, 2018

Coimbatore: More than 400 open-end (OE) mills across TamilNadu have set an example of unity by fixing price of their produce unanimously and uniformly. Following the success of this initiative, many other states, and even the neighboring countries, have started following the system.

Yarn manufacture, using cotton waste from spinning mills, is done in open-end mills. At present, there are 4650E mills across the state, with 10lakh 20 thousand rotors (the machine in which the yarn is manufactured). Around 4.8lakh people are directly and 25 laks indirectly are employed in the sector value chain.

At present, there are 1360E mills manufacturing Grey Yarn and 329 mills concentration on color yarn. Each day, on an average, 5.6lakh kg grey yarn and 5.48lakh kg color yarn are manufactured in the state. While price fixing for the yarn was a big problem, the initiative taken by the OE mill industrialists came as a much needed relief.

Tamilnadu Open End Mills Association (OSMA) President M. Jayabal told Express, "Our association took the initiative in uniting all OE mill industrialists and fixing one price. Each Monday, grey yarn, and every fortnight color yarn rates are fixed. TN Open End Mill sector became the first global organization to bring in uniformity. Seeing our success, many north Indian states and neighboring countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh are emulating us. Recently, fabric manufacturers in Tamilnadu started implementing the procedure for the fabric. Three years ago, OSMA successfully implemented this formula," he said.

MIGRANTS

A northern state youth was beaten to death

Dinamani July 16, 2018

Avinashi: A northern state youth was beaten to death on Sunday in Vanjipalayam near Tiruppur.

The police personnel received information that a dead body of male was in the ground in the area of Vanjipalayam Kousika River over bridge near Tiruppur. So, they rushed to the spot and found a dead body of youth with deep injuries. Again, they inquired about the person died.

The dead youth was working in a private company and he belonged to Bihar. Also, it was learnt that Manjil (24) and his father Pramod Manjil. As per the words of police personnel that the youth was beaten to death by someone and they were involved in the inquiries of it.

A northern state worker attempted self-immolation - since no payment of salary was made in the company - critical situation in front of Tiruppur Collectorate
Daily Thanthi July 17, 2018

Tiruppur: A northern state workers attempted the self-immolation of fire in front of the Tiruppur Collectorate for the non-payment of wages for his work in a company.

To prevent the self-immolation by setting fire on himself, the police security was also arranged. After the check up by the police officer, the general public and the officials are permitted to enter into the office.

At this point, on the weekly grievance day of every week the general public was assembled in front of the Collectorate.

On the eve of it, a northern state youth attempted self-immolation by pouring kerosene on himself and put on fire. Suddenly the police personnel appointed for the security and prevented him to do so and inquired about him. On the inquiry, the youth said that he was belonging to Odissa and his name was Abey Choudhiri and aged 45years.

He joined as a worker in a printing company situated in the K.R.Nagar on Tiruppur - Mangalam Road a month back. But, he was not properly paid his salary and so he attempted the self-immolation. To continue the same he was taken to the central police station. Then, they arranged to bring the owner of the printing company to the police station.

After the inquiry related to the issue, the police personnel asked him to pay the salary to the workers the owner did so. Thereafter, the worker was sent away and also advised the owner to pay the salary to the workers in time.

TRADE UNION

To those who die in Accident - Preparation for the revival of banian company worker's family CITU makes a demand to the Collector
Daily Thanthi July 4, 2018

Tiruppur: On behalf of CITU, a demand was raised before the collector to make the preparation for the revival of a worker's family on the occasion of death during the accident occurred.

G. Sampath, the general secretary of CITU garment workers union wrote a letter to the Tiruppur district collector as the following:

Two woman workers died in an accident occurred near Dharapuram due to the upturn of a van belonging to a garment company. About 23 persons were seriously injured in the event. The accident was occurred due to the urgency in taking the laborers to the company in time. So, the driver drove the van at full speed in such a way to meet the accident. Hence, the entire responsibility goes to the garment company.

Not only from Tiruppur but also from the nearby area notably village around 60kms the workers are collected and brought to the garment companies by buses as well as vans. So, the accidents like this are occurred now and then. The reason for these accidents are the failures of inspection to know the good conditions of automate vehicles and the poor maintenance of them.

Similarly, the disqualified vehicles running on the road at uncontrollable speed said as the reason for the accidents. The aids and the compensation for the death of a worker by accident by the law are not provided to the family of such a worker. A small amount of money is paid to the family of the dead person and solved the problem through the negotiation talks. So, the family of dead person involved in the accident is badly affected. Both the TamilNadu state and the district administration must assure the continuous monitoring activity and the controllable speed of the vehicles being operated for the garment companies. The concerned garment company must come forward to take the responsibility of providing the life to the family of the dead person with the support of the TamilNadu Government.

Thus, it was stated in the letter.

Govt. proposes more rights for trade unions – invites suggestions for amendments of Trade Union Act, 1926

The New Indian Express July 24, 2018

New Delhi: The labour minister has proposed amendments in the Trade unions Act for granting more recognition to trade bodies at the central and state-level.

“It has been represented by trade unions that the other central government ministries and state government do not given due weight age to these central trade unions (CITUs) in the absence of any statutory backing of this verification and recognition procedure,” the ministry said in its proposal. The ministry got requests from various stakeholders asking them to provide statutory backing for trade unions either in the Act or by amendments in the rules of recognition of the central Trade Unions.

As per the current rules, trade unions are verified by the central chief labour commissioner. Upon recommendation, the ministry gives recognition to these unions.

Currently, there are 13 central trade unions that are allowed to have representations in national and international conferences or committees. The verification of the committees is done on the basis of executive a guidelines and a code of discipline that is prescribed in a particular establishment or sector.

“An amendment to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 to incorporate the provision of recognition of trade unions / federation of trade unions at central and state level is necessary. Accordingly, it is proposed to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926 to incorporate new sections 28A and sub-section (2A) after Section 29 (2) of the Act,” the ministry proposal said.

It has invited suggestions by August 10.

Trade unions are happy about the development, “This is a very positive move by the government. I hope the amendments are ratified by Parliaments soon and more trade unions come up. This will help workers get their rights and will also provide for more connectivity between the workers and the ministry,” a senior Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) member said.

The centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) also expressed its satisfaction, saying the move was good. “But, we will have to wait and see if the change is actually implemented,” a senior CITU members said.

A monitoring committee to prevent the attacks on the migrant workers – insistence by all the Trade Unionists

Theekkadhir July 24, 2018

Tiruppur: All the trade unions in Tiruppur with the joints effort have insisted the government to prevent the attack on the migrant workers in Tiruppur.

A consulting meeting among all the trade unions of Tiruppur on the prevention of attacking and even killing the migrant workers was held in the office of AITUC near pushpa theatre. Millions of workers are migrated to Tiruppur in such a way to work in the textile and garment companies from various states. But their safety is a matter of question. A week before a migrant worker from the Uttarpradesh was murdered in the Vanjipalayam road. Similarly, 6 workers altogether attacked a worker in Chinniya goundan puthur.

Such a kind of incidents are occurring then and there very often. So, the police department must act in such a way to prevent the attack on the migrant workers. Again, the poor conditions residences of migrant workers must be removed. All the migrant workers must be identified and counted in such a way to provide them with the identify cards on behalf of the police department labour welfare department and unions with the joint effort such resolutions were passed in the meeting held there on.

The meeting was presided by Sekar, the district secretary of AITUC banian workers union. On behalf of CITU Easwaramoorthy and Nagaraj, Manoharan and Avinashi Perumal on behalf of MLF Union, Balasubramaniam on behalf of LPF Union, Muthusamy on behalf of HMS, Perumal on behalf of the INTUC participated in the event.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING BILL

Lok Sabha passes Anti-Trafficking Bill

The Hindu July 27, 2018

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lok-sabha-passes-anti-trafficking-bill/article24523977.ece>

New Delhi: The **Lok Sabha** on Thursday passed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018.

Some Members of **Parliament**, including those from the Congress, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), Communist Party of India (the CPI) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), demanded that it be sent to the Standing Committee.

The Bill lays down a stringent punishment of 10 years to life imprisonment for aggravated forms of trafficking, which include buying or selling of persons for the purpose of bonded labour, bearing a child, as well as those where chemical substances or hormones are administered, and a survivor acquires life-threatening illnesses such as AIDS.

The Bill proposes establishing a National Anti-Trafficking Bureau (NATB) for coordinating, monitoring and surveillance of trafficking cases. It also provides for a Relief and Rehabilitation Committee and Rehabilitation Fund with an initial allocation of Rs. 10 crore. It prescribes forfeiture of property used or likely to be used for the commission of an offence.

“Trafficking is a borderless crime but jurisdiction issues come in the way of investigation. This Bill provides for the NATB to effectively address this aspect,” Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi said while introducing the Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Parties' concerns

The Trinamool Congress' Pratima Mondal and CPI's Badaruddoza Khan raised questions about the provisions for confiscation of properties likely to be misused, and the BJD's Tathagatha Satpathy highlighted the need for community-based rehabilitation for survivors as had been laid down by a Supreme Court-appointed panel on rehabilitation of sex workers.

Mr. Khan also sought protection for transgender persons under the Bill. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said trafficking should not be conflated with sex work and the Bill lacks safeguards to ensure that people who voluntarily enter into sex trade are not harassed.

In her response, Ms. Gandhi assured the House that if there were any lacunae in the Bill, they would be addressed when the rules are framed.

The Minister also sought to allay concerns about the Bill potentially victimising adult persons voluntarily in sex work and said the Bill was not intended to harass sex workers and that the government was against trafficking and not its victims. However, at the same time, she said, "If the provisions [of this Bill] are implemented, the hellholes of Kamathipura and G.B. Road will be a thing of the past because these will come directly under confiscation of property." Ms. Gandhi told Parliament.

Earlier this year, the Cabinet had approved a proposal for making the apex anti-terror body — the National Investigation Agency (NIA) — the nodal authority for probing cases of human trafficking, for which the government is expected to bring a separate amendment to the NIA Act.

