

Government moots welfare centres for women

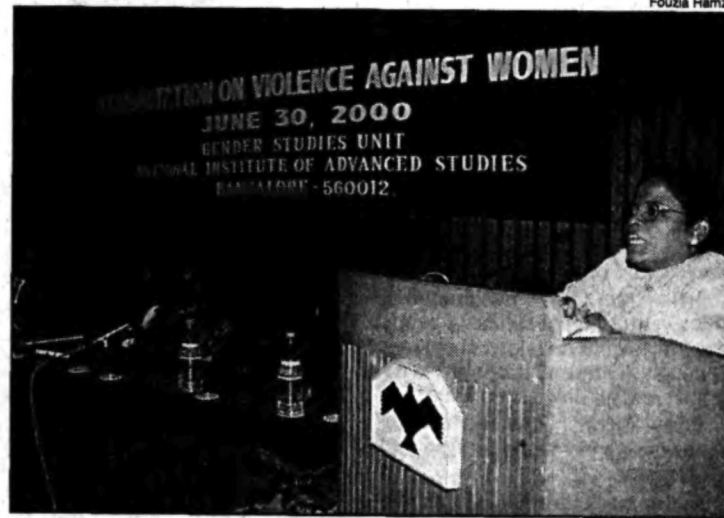
Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Karnataka government plans to set up women's welfare centres in the divisional headquarters of Mysore, Gulbarga, Belgaum and Bangalore to provide shelter to victims of sexual harassment, exploitation and violence.

Minister for Women and Child Development Motamma announced this on Friday during a consultation on 'Violence against women', conducted by the Gender Studies Unit (GSU) of the National Institute of Advanced Studies here. Motamma stressed on making helplines effective.

Despite public awareness, there were reports of unnatural deaths. With police and judiciary insisting on the availability of a witness or evidence to book cases against the culprit, adequate punitive action was not being taken, she observed.

Though a few programmes like Balika Samriddhi Yojane, where parents get Rs 500 on the birth of a girl child; attendance scholarship which supports the education of a girl till PU following regularity in attendance; a Rs 50,000-loan for



Karnataka Minister for Women and Child Welfare Motamma speaks at the inauguration of a consultation on Violence Against Women in Bangalore on Friday

income generation for women living below the poverty line along with 25 per cent subsidy, had been implemented, a lot more was desired to prevent atrocities against women. "We require a change in attitude among men. Women alone

can't fight for their rights and privileges," Motamma noted.

Enumerating the problems in different districts, fellow of GSU N. Shantha Mohan said a field study of 10 villages had shown that the issue of priority was state violence.

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Coorg, Bijapur and Koppal reeled under the scourge of child marriage and the devadasi system, and Udupi suffered the curse of exorbitant dowry and the ensuing ills.

The interactive session, with panelists including Justice Sadashiva, chief executive chairman of the Legal Services Authority; DGP-CoD V.V. Bhaskar; former MP C. Narayana Swamy; Paalakshappa Poojar, deputy director, department of women and child development, discussed how women should also form groups and fight atrocities.

Increasing alcoholism and the accompanying domestic violence was brought up by a participant from Chitradurga. Replying to her, former MP Narayanaswamy said the government should find other means of revenue. "Of what use can this ill-gotten wealth be," he questioned. Narayanaswamy suggested that government grant licence only after obtaining a no-objection certificate from local bodies.

The consultation was organised to chalk out a strategy to be followed in the 10 villages which will become model ones after the project's second phase in four years.

TOI
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