



By Prabhakar Rao Voruganti
17 Aug 2010 02:39:30 AM IST

SC for a lasting solution to jogini system

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has allowed the impleadment application filed by advocate T Anamika, amicus curiae, in the case related to providing a lasting solution to the living conditions of joginis in Andhra Pradesh.

Joginis are women forced into prostitution by a religious custom. Young girls are married to a local deity and afterwards it becomes their religious duty to provide sexual favours to the local men.

They have no family of their own but become mother of children whose responsibility is refused by their fathers.

Apex court had converted a letter written in 2007 into a writ petition for making effective recommendations to alleviate the suffering of children born to joginis.

Anamika sought impleadment of Home Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, AP Human Rights Commission, AP State Commission for Women, AP State Social Welfare Board, Commissionerate of Social Welfare, AP Primary Education Project and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, as the issue requires the consideration and cooperation of the state government for effective implementation of the various laws and welfare schemes and projects.

It was submitted that according an estimate by Ashray, an NGO, there are about 27,000 joginis in Andhra Pradesh.

About 95 percent of the Joginis belong to the Scheduled Castes (Mala and Madiga) and Scheduled Tribes, a small percentage belongs to the backward castes like Telaga and Chakali.

The joginis are concentrated in Chittoor, Anantapur, Nellore, Prakasam, Warangal, Mahabubnagar and Nizamabad districts.

Anamika further submitted to the Bench comprising Chief Justice S H Kapadia and Justice K S Radhakrishnan that the children of joginis lead a life of deprivation and degradation.

They face social boycott and ostracism.

Several children of joginis drop out from school at the elementary stages and join anti-social elements or take to begging to sustain the family.

These children are forced to live secluded lives in poor unhygienic conditions, she stated. Senior advocate Anoop Choudhary sought two weeks time to get instructions from the state government on how to tackle the problem.

© Copyright 2008 ExpressBuzz