

Revive defunct PRIs: Minister

PARVEENSPEAK 'Multi-pronged approach needed to combat human trafficking'

HT Correspondent

htletters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Social welfare minister Parveen Amanullah on Wednesday stressed the need to revive and strengthen "the totally defunct" panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) to tackle various problems, including migration and trafficking of girls and children.

Addressing a workshop on 'Public private partnership for promoting safe migration and combat human trafficking' here, Amanullah said: "We need to adopt a multi-pronged approach to deal with the situation, which is the direct outcome of unemployment among the illiterates, especially the rural population. And this calls for strong panchayat bodies at the village level, which can be entrusted with the task of putting a tab on the malady by addressing livelihood problems of the locals."

She said strong PRIs would be the first and foremost step in this direction. She also called for setting up of vigilance committees at panchayat levels to check mismanagement and



■ Social welfare minister Parveen Amanullah inaugurating a workshop, in Patna on Wednesday.

AP DUBE / HT PHOTO

embezzlement of funds.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Bihar Foundation (BF), CII (Bihar chapter) and ATSEC jointly organised the workshop.

Director of MNREGA under rural development department, Manish Kumar said if the benefits of the scheme reached out to the targeted group, migration and trafficking problems could be sorted out to a large extent, as they originated from

poverty and unemployment.

Regional convener, ATSEC, South Asia, M N Mandal urged to develop rehabilitation homes for rescued and vulnerable girls in the state. "But no such developments are taking place in Bihar in this direction," he lamented.

Malathy from IOM head office, said one should not only look at the remedial aspects like relief and rehabilitation of traf-

SHE (MINISTER) SAID STRONG PRIs WOULD BE NEEDED FOR ADDRESSING SOCIAL MALADIES. SHE ALSO CALLED FOR SETTING UP OF VIGILANCE COMMITTEES AT PANCHAYAT LEVELS TO CHECK MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

ficking victims, but focusing on the prevention aspects would be of greater value and more rewarding.

Social activist Sumal Lal said the stakeholders in government and NGOs needed to develop a stronger network in order to defeat the powerful and much organised criminals engaged in the felony. Y K Gautam, state convener of ATSEC, Satyajit Singh of BF, Abhijeet Nirmal of 'Save the Children' and Satyjit Singh of CII (Bihar chapter) also spoke on the occasion.