

(b) As per information furnished by State Government of Tamil Nadu, no children of foreign nationality or disabled children have been apprehended by the police in the State of Tamil Nadu, in the recent past.

Sail taking over of Brahmini Steel

*133. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has come forward to take over Brahmini Steel in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal forwarded by SAIL;

(c) in what manner, SAIL is planning to go ahead in this regard since Brahmini has not shown any inclination to start the project and also failed to meet the deadline of December, 2009 to commence its operations;

(d) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASD VERMA) : (a) to (e) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has registered its interest with Government of Andhra Pradesh in September, 2011 for acquisition of Brahmini Steel Ltd. and associated mines or any other land bank with iron ore mines in Andhra Pradesh. Future course of action by SAIL will be decided on receipt of response from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Sexual Harassment at Work Place

134. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA :

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a legislation to stop sexual harassment at work place and abuse of sexual harassment of children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) and (b) The 'Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2010 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 07.12.2010. It seeks to provide protection to women against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in the public and private sector, whether organised or unorganised. It provides for prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment. Women who are employed as well as those who enter the workplace as

clients, customers or apprentices besides the students and research scholars in colleges and universities and patients in hospitals are sought to be covered under the proposed legislation.

The Bill casts a responsibility on every employer of a workplace, except in respect of workplaces employing less than 10 persons, to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee to enquire into complaints and recommend action, if the charges are proved. In respect of workplaces employing less than 10 persons, Local Complaints Committees constituted by the District Officers are responsible for taking similar action.

The employers are responsible for facilitating the enquiry process and taking steps for awareness generation, prevention and deterrence. They are also required to regularly report on cases filed and disposed for better enforcement of the law. The proposed Bill provides for penalties in case of non-compliance of these duties. The Bill seeks to put in place appropriate monitoring mechanism.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, 2011 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2011 to address sexual abuse and exploitation of Children. The Offences covered under the Bill include penetrative sexual assault, sexual assault, sexual harassment and child pornography. Aggravated situations, including commission of an offence by a person in a position of trust or authority of a child, call for more stringent provisions. The proposed Bill aims to protect the child's right to privacy and confidentiality. It is expected that enactment of this Bill will contribute to the safety and security of children and protect them from sexual assault, harassment and exploitation.

Combining of AI Flights

*135. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that many of the airlines in the country, including Air India, have either cancelled or combined a large number of flights, causing inconvenience to the passengers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to ensure prompt and convenient services by the airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Generally, scheduled airlines operate their flights as approved. However, at times the flights are cancelled due to weather, technical, operational, commercial and miscellaneous reasons which are beyond the control of the airlines.

During the period of Oct. 2011 to Jan. 2012, total no. of 3309 flights were cancelled by scheduled domestic airlines. The details are as under :