

or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-a-vis the child. Child trafficking for sexual purposes has also been made punishable under the provisions relating to abetment in the Act. The Act prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence, with a maximum term of rigorous imprisonment for life, and fine.

A Nirbhaya Fund was initiated by the Govt. of India to support initiatives by various Ministries, Departments and NGOs towards protecting the safety, security and dignity of women in India. Under the aegis of Nirbhaya Fund, Ministry of Home Affairs was allotted Rs. 321.69 crore for launching an integrated Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) platform for supporting Geographical Information System (GIS) Based Call Taking and Global Positioning System (GPS) based Police vehicle dispatch function that will help to improve the efficiency in responding to distress calls from women and provide speedy assistance.

As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is deeply concerned with the welfare of women and children and through various schemes and advisories to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, augments the efforts of the States /UTs. Periodic meetings are also conducted with States / UTs to improve co-ordination and obtain ground level information in this regard.

Amending Forest (Conservation) Act to exploit minerals

†*129 DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether States have sent any proposal or gave any suggestion to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 so that mineral resources can be fully exploited and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a permanent system or forum will be established to review the royalty rates of major minerals of the States; and

(c) if so, the details of measures undertaken to protect and promote the interests of States in view of (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.