

Nirbhaya fund to fight sexual harassment

240. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted Nirbhaya Fund to help girls in schools and colleges to fight sexual harassment;
- (b) if so, the status along with details thereof;
- (c) how far this fund has since been allocated and utilized; and
- (d) what are the results of this mission to control crimes against women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) 'Nirbhaya Fund' has been set up to ensure dignity and safety of girl children and women. The Fund has been created as a corpus in public account in Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance. ₹ 2000 crore has already been credited into the Fund. As and when the schemes from Ministries/Departments are approved to be funded from 'Nirbhaya Fund', suitable allocations are done in their respective Demands and the corpus in DEA is reduced by that amount.

(c) and (d) Allocation from Nirbhaya Fund has been made in the Union Budget 2014-15 for the following schemes:

- (i) The Ministry of Home Affairs had been sanctioned a total of ₹ 150 crore out of the Nirbhaya Fund to implement emergency response system to attend calls from women in distress and provide them immediate assistance. The project is under implementation.
- (ii) 'Scheme on Women Safety on Public Road Transport' administered by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways— ₹ 50 crore.

Undertrials languishing in jails

241. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of undertrials languishing in jails for more than two years, three years and five years;
- (b) the justification for not conducting speedy trials for them; and
- (c) the course of action for conducting such trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) at the end of 2013, the total number of undertrials languishing in jails between two to three years, three years and more than five years are 17210, 9842 and 3047 respectively.

(b) and (c) “Prisons” is a State subject as per entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the administration and management of prisons is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the following measures have been taken by the Government in respect of undertrial prisoners:

- (i) An advisory has been issued by the Government of India on 17.1.2013 to the States/UTs regarding use of section 436A of the Cr. P.C. to reduce the overcrowding of prisons. The same can also be accessed on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the link: http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/AdvSec436APrisons-060213_0.pdf
- (ii) The Union Home Minister has written to the Chief Ministers/LG of States/UT on 3.9.2014 regarding use of section 436A of Cr. P.C. to reduce overcrowding in jails of the country.
- (iii) The Hon’ble Supreme Court in its order dated 5.9.2014 in the Writ Petition No. 310/2005- Bhim Singh Vs Union of India & Others relating to the undertrial prisoners, has directed for effective implementation of Section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The DG (Prisons)/IG (Prisons) of all States/UTs have been requested by the Government of India on 22.9.2014 to take necessary action to comply with the order of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the matter.
- (iv) An advisory dated 27.9.2014 has been issued by the Government of India to the States/UTs on reckoning half-life of time spent in judicial custody of the undertrial prisoners under Section 436A of Cr. P. C. The same can also be accessed on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs at the link: http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/GuidelinesForReckoningHalfLife_161014.pdf

Setting up of Central anti-terror mechanism

242. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the investigating agencies have recommended the setting up of a Central anti-terror mechanism placing intelligence and investigation wings under a single command for more coordinated action against emerging internal security challenges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;