

in order to reduce the time taken to dispose such cases, law has been amended to make it mandatory for investigation (section 173 CrPC) and trial (section 309 CrPC) in rape cases to be completed in two months each. It has also been provided that an appeal filed by an accused against a sentence in a rape case has to be disposed by the court in six months (section 377 CrPC).

Additionally, Section 33 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act) provides that the Special Court shall create a child-friendly atmosphere by allowing family-member, guardian, a friend or a relative in whom the child has trust or confidence to be present in the court. Section 35 of POCSO Act provides that evidence of child shall be recorded, as far as possible, within 30 days. Section 36 of POCSO Act provides that the court shall ensure that the victim is not exposed to accused at the time of recording of evidence. Similarly, Section 37 of POCSO Act provides for in camera trials. Section 39 of POCSO Act requires the State/Union Territory to prepare guidelines for use of non-governmental organizations, professionals, experts, persons having knowledge of psychology, social work, physical health, mental health and child development to be associated with pre-trial and trial stage to assist the child.

#### **Abduction of policemen and family members**

1947. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that there has been high incidences of abduction of policemen and their family members in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of such cases in the country during the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (d) The Government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism. Due to concerted and synergized efforts of Security Forces, the security situation in the State has witnessed an improvement in the first half of this year over the corresponding period of 2018. Net infiltration has reduced by 43% and local recruitment has declined by 40%. Terrorist initiated incidents have declined by 28%. Actions initiated by the security forces witnessed an increase of 59% and have resulted in 22% increase in neutralization of terrorists.

Due to the intensified actions against terrorism by the security forces, the terrorists have resorted to abduction of policemen and their family members on some occasions in order to de-motivate the forces. State/UT-wise details of such cases are not centrally maintained.

Government has taken various measures, such as strengthening of security apparatus, strict enforcement of law against anti-national elements, intensified cordon and search operations to effectively deal with the challenges posed by the terrorist organisations.

#### **Amendment/repeal of Articles 370 and 35A**

1948. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to repeal Articles 370 and 35A;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether repeal of these Articles in any way violate any United Nations regulation or any international obligation of the country; and
- (d) if so, how will the same be mitigated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (d) At present, Article 370 is contained as a temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir in Part XXI (Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions) of the Indian Constitution.

At present, Article 35A is contained in the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 which was added through the Constitution Order issued by the President of India under Article 370.

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Matters relating to the Constitution of India are internal and entirely for the Indian Parliament to deal with. No foreign government or organisation has any locus standi in the matter.

#### **Linking of police stations of UP under CCTNS**

†1949. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has linked all the police stations throughout the country under Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.