

KIDNAPPED FROM WEST BENGAL

Teen rescued from flesh trade; one held

HT Correspondent

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MUMBAI: An 18-year-old, who was allegedly kidnapped from near her residence in Murshidabad in West Bengal, was recently rescued from a sex racket in Nerul. A pimp has also been arrested, while an unidentified kidnapper is at large.

The Mumbai police and their counterparts from Nerul undertook the operation on Sunday.

The victim's sister told HT on the phone: "On July 17, my sister was sedated and kidnapped by an unidentified man after she had left home to visit a bank. She was brought to Mumbai by flight. My sister somehow managed to contact me through the mobile phone the next day. She informed me that she was somewhere in Mumbai. She said they were forcing her to have sex. She said she will consume poison and commit suicide."

After receiving a complaint from the sister, the Raninagar police in Murshidabad regis-

tered a kidnapping case on July 20. Her sister contacted Sujay Deashan of NGO Rescue Foundation. Deashan contacted the Social Service Branch (SS Branch) of the Mumbai police who, based on technical evidence, traced the girl to an old building next to Kohinoor lodge in Nerul early on Sunday.

As the survivor does not speak Hindi, it was difficult for her to differentiate between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. She had heard a pimp using the word "Mumbai". With the help of the Nerul police, the girl was rescued at 5am on Sunday. Sachin Rane, senior inspector of Nerul police, said, "We have rescued the girl and arrested the manager (pimp) under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956."

The kidnapper was being traced. Deashan said, "Thanks to the Mumbai police, we managed to rescue the girl. Raninagar police will arrive in the city in a few days to take her back home. She has been kept at a shelter home."

LS passes law to deal with human trafficking

▶▶ Union Minister Maneka Gandhi says the legislation does not intend to harass sex workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a comprehensive law to deal with the menace of human trafficking, with Union Minister Maneka Gandhi stating that the legislation does not intend to harass sex workers.

Assuring that she would incorporate in the Rules any "lacunae" that the members have pointed out, the Women and Child Development Minister said the bill is intended to go after human traffickers and not the victims.

Members cutting across party lines supported the bill.

Even as Congress and CPI(M) demanded that the bill be sent to the standing committee, Gandhi said "the bill is long overdue ... The law is vic-

tim centric and conviction rate will hopefully improve after the bill is enacted". The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, provides for confidentiality of victims, witnesses and complainants, time-bound trials and repatriation of the victims.

"This bill is not intended to harass those social workers who are voluntarily in the profession... This is a bill that has a compassionate view of people who have been victims of sex racket," Gandhi said.

"When 11 year-old Tara is trafficked from her village and sold into bonded labour, beaten and burnt by her owner, how do we save her? When she is sold to marriage to a 45-year-old man and raped everyday for months, how do we save her? We have no institutions, no processes to

do so," she said.

"And today if we are not passing this bill, we are choosing to deny Tara and all the millions like her fundamental right to life and liberty," Gandhi added.

The legislation proposes to create institutional mechanisms at the district, state and central levels. It calls for punishment ranging from 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine not less than Rs 1 lakh.

Besides prevention, rescue and rehabilitation, it covers aggravated forms of trafficking such as forced labour, begging and marriage.

"Begging is an aggravated crime. Often we get to see at traffic lights that women are begging holding a baby which is drugged and sleeping and is being fed milk. They are hired on an hourly or daily basis,"



Gandhi said.

She said a lot of countries have written to India saying that it is a good bill and they will also draft their respective anti-human trafficking law based on this. For the first time, buying and selling of human beings is being made a cognisable offence, she said adding that the bill is pathbreaking step and SAARC

and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) nations are looking forward to India to take a lead by enacting this law.

"The proposed bill will hit organised nexus of trafficking," Gandhi said.

A rehabilitation fund with an initial corpus of Rs 10 crore would be created for the first

time which will be used for the physical, psychological and social well being of the victims. Also there would be designated courts in each district for speedy trial of the cases.

Gandhi also assured the members in the House that the amount would increase as and when required. The Bill provides for attachment and forfeiture of property and also the proceeds of crime. The Minister, however, said that no property would be attached without giving notice.

A National Anti-Trafficking Bureau would be set up to perform functions of international coordination with authorities in foreign countries and international organisations. Currently, India uses different laws to deal with human trafficking cases depending on the facts of the case. The police sometimes uses

the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act to raid brothels and rescue the women in it, while in other cases, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act is used to prosecute traffickers. The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, when enacted will be the only legislation dealing with all form of human trafficking.

Participating in the discussion, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said the bill has been drafted "by the bureaucracy for the bureaucracy" and the victims are the "least priority" in the bill. Replying to Tharoor, the Minister said the draft bill has been in public domain for over a year and the Congress MP had not "shared his wisdom" so far. Gandhi said during consultation on the bill, Tharoor had

met her officially with representatives of sex workers to give their views, so that they are not harassed. Earlier moving the bill for consideration and passage, Gandhi had said it attempted to create a legal, economic and social environment for victims.

Quoting data, she said as many as 19,223 children and women were trafficked in 2016 as against 15,448 in 2015.

Moreover, 1,11,569 children have been reported missing in 2016, she said adding that they are presumed to have been trafficked and abducted for exploitive purposes. "The reality is actually and probably much worse," she said.

Participating in the debate, Pratima Mondal (TMC) said some provisions of the Bill were "vague" and gradation of offenses appears to be illogical.

The Bill has a provision for 10 years' RI or life term

Lok Sabha passes anti-trafficking Bill

By **Supriya Bhardwaj** in New Delhi

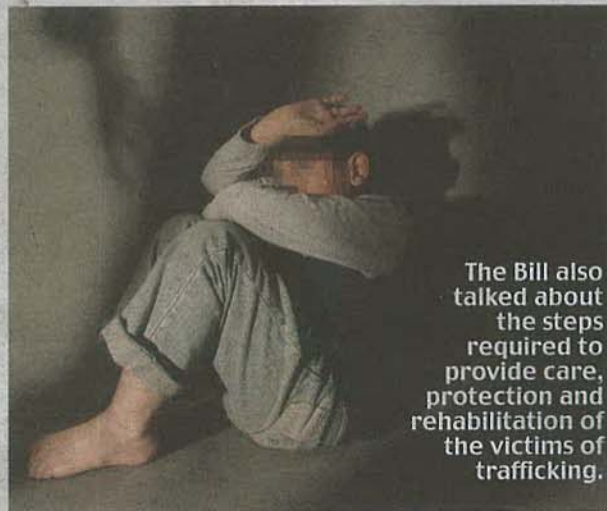
"HOW can we stay silent when women and children are sold like goods?" This is how Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi started the discussion on Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill on Thursday.

After more than three hour discussion, the bill was passed in the Lok Sabha. Skipping the lunch break, Lok Sabha debated the bill which provides for the prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation of trafficked persons, specially women and children.

The bill also talked about the steps required to provide care, protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking. The bill has a provision of 10 years of rigorous imprisonment to life imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs one lakh.

Gandhi said, "The current laws define trafficking as an offence, there are lots of gaps. The Bill allows police officers to undertake rescues as and when they receive information. The Bill also allows bank accounts of the perpetrators to be frozen."

Meanwhile, leading the debate from the Congress side former Union minister Shashi Tharoor said, "The Bill is regressive and paternalistic as it ignores the agency of victims. The difference between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants is well recognised in international law but this distinction is missing in this Bill." The Thiruvananthapuram MP added, "Bill is a rehash of existing laws. The government must study how existing laws have been applied". He added that the Bill must differentiate between those who are trafficked into sex work, and adult, consent-



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WHAT THE BILL SAYS

■ The offences under Bill includes trafficking of persons, promoting trafficking, disclosing the identity of the victim, and aggravated trafficking.

■ The aggravated trafficking will be punishable with rigorous imprisonment of 10 years up to life imprisonment, along with a minimum fine of ₹one lakh.

■ Time-bound trial by designated courts. The courts, which will be set up, will seek to complete trial within a year.

■ National Anti-Trafficking Bureau to investigate trafficking cases and implement provisions of the Bill needs to be established.

■ The state government will appoint a State Nodal Officer.

WHO SAID WHAT?

MANEKA GANDHI, Union minister said, "How can we stay silent when women and children are sold like goods?"



SHASHI THAROOR, Congress leader said, "The Bill is regressive and paternalistic as it ignores the agency of victims. Bill is a rehash of old laws."



ing women who have entered sex work.

While replying to Dr Tharoor, she said, "It is a pity that the Member did not share his wisdom in the two years of the drafting process. Dur-

ing consultations there were two kinds of people those who represent victims, and those who represent sex workers. She says that Tharoor came to her representing sex workers." *India Today TV*

देह व्यापार के नर्क में जाने से बचाई गई 16 लड़कियां

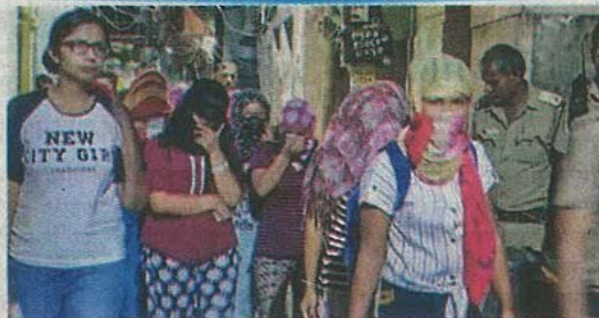
● खाड़ी देशों में भोजने की थी तैयारी

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नई दिल्ली

पुलिस के सहयोग से दिल्ली महिला आयोग (डीसीडब्ल्यू) ने दक्षिण पश्चिम दिल्ली के मुनिरका इलाके से 16 महिलाओं को बचाया है जिन्हें कथित तौर पर नेपाल से तस्करी कर लाया गया था और उन्हें खाड़ी देश ले जाया जाना था। पुलिस को मंगलवार रात करीब नौ बजे डीसीडब्ल्यू ने जानकारी दी।

पुलिस के अनुसार सूचना के बाद मुनिरका में रात करीब डेढ़ बजे से बुधवार सुबह तक छापेमारी की गई जिसमें 16 महिलाओं को सकुशल

नेपाल से तस्करी कर लाई गई थीं



पश्चिमी दिल्ली के मुनिरका इलाके से बचाई गई लड़कियों को बाहर लाती पुलिस। साथ में दिल्ली महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष स्वाति मालिवाल भी हैं।

मुक्त कराया गया।

पुलिस ने कहा कि बचाई गई 16 महिलाओं में 14 शादीशुदा हैं। उनकी उम्र 20 से 40 वर्ष के बीच है।

7 को भेजा गया कुवैत और इराक : स्वाति

दिल्ली महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष स्वाति मालिवाल ने ट्वीट कर कहा कि मानव तस्कर 16 नेपाली लड़की दिल्ली लाये और उन्हें चुपके से कुवैत व इराक भेज रहे थे। उनके पासपोर्ट दलालों ने छीन लिए। छोटे से कमरे में बंद 16 लड़की हमने छुड़वाई। 8 महीने से ये चल रहा है, 7 लड़कियां कुवैत-इराक 15 दिन पहले भेजी गयी हैं। उनके साथ जाने क्या हुआ होगा! उन्होंने सवाल किया कि जहां से लड़कियां बचाई, वो जगह थाने से 500 मीटर की दूरी पर थी। कैसे हमको पता चल जाता है पर पुलिस को इतने बड़े रैकेट का पता नहीं चलता? उन्होंने कहा कि दिल्ली मानव तस्करी का अड्डा बना रहेगा जब तक पुलिस की जवाबदेही नहीं तय होगी।

डीसीडब्ल्यू ने आरोप लगाया है कि इन महिलाओं को रोजगार दिलाने के बहाने दिल्ली लाया गया था और कई दिनों तक इन्हें छोटे कमरे में रखा गया।

ट्रांसजेंडरों के अधिकारों की रक्षा हेतु कोर्ट में याचिका

वैभवा न्यूज़ ■ नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने केंद्र और आप सरकार को उस जनहित याचिका पर अपना रुख स्पष्ट करने का निर्देश दिया जिसमें दावा किया गया है कि चार साल पहले ट्रांसजेंडरों के अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देश के बावजूद उन्हें अभी भी अत्याचारों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। कार्यवाहक मुख्य न्यायाधीश गीता मिश्र और न्यायमूर्ति सी हरि शंकर की पीठ ने दिल्ली सरकार, उपराज्यपाल कार्यालय और सामाजिक न्याय तथा गृह मंत्रालय को नोटिस जारी कर याचिका पर उनका जवाब मांगा है। याचिका में आरोप लगाया गया है कि ट्रांसजेंडर शिक्षा के

बुनियादी अधिकार, रोजगार के अवसर और सम्मान से जीवन जीने के अवसरों से वंचित किया जा रहा है। विवेकानंद इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ प्रोफेशनल स्टडीज के दो छात्रों की याचिका के मुताबिक नालसा मामले में ट्रांसजेंडरों के अधिकारों पर उच्चतम न्यायालय के 2014 के निर्देश चार साल बीतने के बाद भी लागू नहीं किए गए हैं। रशि जैन और मिहिर गर्ग की याचिका में दलील दी गई है कि उच्चतम न्यायालय ने 2014 के अपने फैसले में प्राधिकारों को ट्रांसजेंडरों से थर्ड जेंडर का व्यवहार करने और उन्हें कानूनी पहचान प्रदान करने का निर्देश दिया था। अदालत ने मामले की आगे सुनवाई के लिए 14 नवंबर की तारीख तय की है।