

### Amendments in CPC, CrPC and Evidence Act

3312. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to make amendments in CPC, CrPC and Evidence Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any study about certain provisions existing in these laws which has contributed a major role in the delay of rendering justice; and
- (d) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to resolve this?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) The Law Commission of India, from time to time, examines various laws including procedural laws such as the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to make suggestions for their amendments.

On the basis of the 163rd Report of the Law Commission of India, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 was last amended *vide* the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment), 2002 (22 of 2002) for cutting short delays at various levels. Similarly, on the basis of 154th and 177th Report of the Commission, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 was last amended *vide* the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008 (5 of 2009) to ensure fair and speedy justice and to tone with the criminal justice system.

The Law Commission of India *vide* its 185th Report on 'Review of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872' and 221st report on 'Need for Speedy Justice — Some Suggestions', has *inter alia* made certain recommendation for amendments in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. As the subject matter of the said Report falls under List III — Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, they have been circulated to the State Governments and the Union territories for seeking their views/comments thereon.

### Illegal mining in Aravali Hills

†3313. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cases of continuous illegal mining in the Aravali Hills area are coming to light;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any plan to stop illegal mining; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per available information, there is no illegal mining in Aravali Hills in the State of Haryana, where the Hon'ble Supreme Court has enforced ban/suspended mining activities. To ensure the compliance of the

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Orders of Hon<sup>ble</sup> Supreme Court, the State Government of Haryana has constituted a District Level Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner with Superintendent of Police and other Senior functionaries as member in each of the concerned district. The task force is entrusted with the responsibility of keeping a watch and ensuring complete compliance of the orders of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to empower the State Governments to take action against illegal mining by giving them powers to enter and inspect any mine, penalize transportation and storage of illegal mined materials, confiscate illegally mined minerals, tools, equipment and vehicles, and frame separate Rules under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for curbing illegal mining. This was followed by regular monitoring by Central Government of the action taken by the State Governments. Recently, all the State Governments have been requested to prepare an Action Plan using modern technology to curb illegal mining. Further, a Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been set up to ensure elimination of delays in grant of mineral concessions. A draft State Mineral Policy has also been circulated to all the State Governments.

#### **Off-shore mining**

3314. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the prospects of off-shore mining in the country and its economic viability;
- (b) the allocation made during 2009-10 on such off-shore activities by the Geological Survey of India (GSI);
- (c) the details of off-shore activities undertaken by GSI during the last two years in the country;
- (d) the details of sea-bed mapping and sea-bed sediments samples collected by GSI during the said period;
- (e) whether GSI proposes to explore the commercial production of the modules and hydrates; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) GSI and other Government agencies have delineated offshore areas having prospect for economic mineral in offshore areas. Government have notified Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 and Offshore Areas Mineral Concession Rules, 2006 for systematic development of offshore minerals. The viability of mining of any offshore deposit is a commercial decision of the miner.

(b) Expenditure incurred by GSI on offshore survey and mineral exploration during the Financial Year 2009-10 is Rs. 2,97,20,532/-.

(c) and (d) The details of offshore activities of Field Season (F.S.) 2008-09 and 2009-10 alongwith the details of sea bed mapping and sea bed sediments samples collected by GSI during the last two years is given in Statement (See below).