

Need to amend Indian Penal Code

2651. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that unforeseen crimes are taking place in the country creating extraordinary situations which are not effectively met by Indian Penal Code which came into existence about 150 years ago; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to revise IPC entirely in the light of unbridled criminality and crimes and enhance punishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are laws other than Indian Penal Code, such as IT Act and others, which have provisions for recognizing offences and punishment for the offenders not covered entirely under the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

(b) The Indian Penal Code, 1860 has been amended from time to time to plug the loopholes and to make certain provisions of the Code more effective. This is a continuous process.

Performance of NDMA

2652. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is satisfied with the work of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA); and

(b) if so, the details of its performance since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) constituted under Executive Order on 30th May, 2005 and later notified and established under Section 3 of Disaster Management Act, 2005 on 27th September, 2006, is a relatively new organization and only 5 year old. Mandated with the responsibility for laying down policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management and ensuring a timely and effective response to disasters, it has executed/ undertaken several initiatives as briefly highlighted below;

(i) National Policy on Disaster Management released and placed on website.

(ii) Sixteen national guidelines on disaster specific and thematic subjects like earthquakes, cyclones, floods, landslides and snow avalanches, biological disaster, chemical (industrial), chemical disaster (Industrial), chemical (terrorism) disaster, incident response system etc. released.

(iii) Guidelines on several other issues like tsunami, drought, urban flooding, community based disaster management etc. are under preparation.

(iv) National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project with the World Bank aid for Orissa and Andhra Pradesh is being finalized for implementation shortly. Other mitigation projects such as Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project, Flood Risk Mitigation Project, Landslide Risk Mitigation Project, etc. are at different stages of preparation/ consideration.

(v) Other activities such as mainstreaming disaster management into developmental plans, scientific and technological initiatives, medical preparedness, capacity development, awareness campaign, mock exercises, etc. initiated/ under different stages of preparation/ implementation.

(vi) General superintendence, direction and control is accorded to National Disaster Response Force by imparting them training and equipping as per international standards, in order to raise them as specialist force.

(vii) Annual Reports for the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament.

Discrimination in grant of work visas to foreign workers

2653. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a system to give work visas to foreign workers coming to India;

(b) whether Government has shown discrimination against some small and tiny sectors in matter of giving work visas while favouring major sectors like IT, shipping, telecom and other sectors;

(c) what are the reasons for Government favouring large companies in such matters;

(d) what steps will be taken to review the policy of discrimination against small and tiny sector in such matters; and