

### Legislation to ban persons guilty of communal violence

1325. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government would bring a comprehensive legislation to prevent participation in elections by persons found guilty in communal violence?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 a person convicted of an offence punishable under section 153A (offence of promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) or sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 505 (offence of making statement creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes or offence relating to such statement in any place of worship or in any assembly engaged in the performance of religious worship or religious ceremonies) of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State, where the convicted person is sentenced to (i) only fine, for a period of six years from the date of such conviction; (ii) imprisonment, from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release. Hence no separate legislation is considered necessary.

### Judicial reforms

†1326. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to prepare a roadmap for judicial reforms in country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether rural courts have started working all over the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Government has, in principle, decided to set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms\* to help reduce backlog of cases in courts from an average of 15 years at present to 3 years by taking a series of strategic initiatives. The setting up of National Mission will also facilitate development of infrastructure facilities in courts.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.