

(b) and (c) The role of the Central Government is mandated in accordance with the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969.

(d) and (e) It had been stated that rules do provide for Central Government to take certain decisions at certain stages but that stage has to be invoked by officer concerned. If officer concerned invokes the rule, the Central Government would look into it.

Need to amend Official Secrets Act, 1923

†3162. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the implementation of Right to Information Act, there is need for amendment in Official Secrets Act, 1923;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the amendments being considered by Government presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH):
(a) to (c) Primacy of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act) *vis-à-vis* provisions of other laws including Official Secrets Act, 1923 (OSA) is mandated under Section 22 of the RTI Act, which gives an overriding effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent with the provisions of OSA or any law for the time being in force. However, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in its report has commented upon the relationship between the RTI Act and the OSA and had given certain recommendations. After having given due consideration to ARC reports and keeping in view the technological advancement and to remove some of the archaic provisions as well as to absorb extant court decisions, a proposal for amendments to the Official Secrets Act, 1923 is under consideration.

Multi-winged plan to tackle naxalism

3163. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.