(b) if so, the reasons for not sending an official representative to the conference?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Two Central Government officials and a private lawyer attended the inaugural meeting of the Criminal Justice/Rule of Law Working Group, held in Washington DC, USA on 3rd and 4th November, 2011, as members of the official Indian delegation.

**Inheritance of deceased women's property**

700. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the present law, a woman's self-acquired property after death of her husband and having no children devolves in favour of her brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws only;

(b) if so, whether the Law Commission has recommended during 2008 that the deceased's own brothers and sisters should also inherit such property;

(c) if so, whether Government would honour this recommendation by implementing it during the current session of Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) As per sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the property of a female Hindu dying intestate shall devolve:

(a) firstly, upon the sons and the daughters (including the children of any pre-deceased son or daughter) and the husband;

(b) secondly, upon the heirs of the husband;

(c) thirdly, upon the mother and the father;

(d) fourthly, upon the heirs of the father; and

(e) lastly, upon the heirs of the mother.

The order of succession and manner of distribution among heirs of female Hindu as provided in section 16 is that among the heirs specified above, those in one entry shall be preferred to those in any succeeding entry and those included in the same entry shall take simultaneously.

(b) The Law Commission of India in its 207th Report on proposal to amend section 15 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 presented to the Government in June 2008 has recommended certain amendments in sub-section (2) of section 15 to the effect that a new clause (c) be inserted therein as under:

"(c) if a female Hindu leaves any self acquired property, in the absence of husband and any son or daughter of the deceased (including the children of any pre-deceased son or daughter), the said property would devolve not upon heirs as mentioned in sub Section (1) in the chronology, but the heirs in category (b)+(c) would inherit simultaneously. If she has no heirs in category (c), then heirs in category (b) + (d) would inherit simultaneously."

(c) and (d) As the subject "Succession" falls under the concurrent field, the said report of the Law Commission has been circulated to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations seeking their views/comments. As views of certain State Governments are still awaited, it may not be possible to take any final view in this regard during the current session of Parliament.

**National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms**

701. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has been approved by Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the steps being taken for implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the setting up of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms.

(b) The Mission spanning 5 years from 2011 would focus on two major goals, namely: (i) increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system, and (ii) enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The National Mission comprises of Advisory Council, Governing Council, National Mission Leader and the Mission Directorate.

The Advisory council has been constituted to advise on the goals, objectives and strategies of the National Mission and the Action Plan and its implementation and performance of the Mission in