

- (a) whether the Minister and the Chief Vigilance Officer have received complaints from Members of Parliament (MPs) regarding furnishing of factually incorrect opinion by the Deputy Legal Adviser;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Vigilance Officer on these complaints;
- (d) whether the incorrect opinion has been corrected and furnished to the concerned departments for their necessary action; and
- (e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Minister for Law & Justice and the Chief Vigilance Officer have respectively received letters dated 23.4.2012 and 24.4.2012 from Shri Purnmasi Ram, MP (Lok Sabha) stating that the opinion given by the Department of Legal Affairs was factually incorrect and requesting for amendment of the opinion.

(c) to (e) The opinion tendered in the month of March, 2012 was given upon a reference received from Department of Personnel & Training, and the same was returned back to that Department. As such, records of the case have been called for to enable the Department of Legal Affairs for taking a view regarding correctness of the opinion tendered earlier.

#### **Amendment in Rape law**

4109. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to take steps to amend the existing rape laws with regard to Section 375 of IPC to expand definition of rape to include sexual assault by acts other than penile penetration;
- (b) whether marital rape would be included as a penal offense and existing exceptions in the law;
- (c) whether Indian Evidence Act would be amended by removing the provision to portray the victim as a 'women' of bad character; and
- (d) whether rape and sexual abuse of young boys and sodomy would also be included under the law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Free and fair polls**

4110. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cash-for-vote and free flowing liquor appear to have replaced door-to-door canvassing a few hours ahead of the voting to elect the legislative assembly in Punjab;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in some sensitive constituencies such as Gidderbaha and Lambi, votes had commanded a high price;

(c) if so, the details of liquor and unaccounted cash seized during the elections from the state; and

(d) what appropriate action the Ministry has taken to conduct fair polls in future, free from the above evils?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has intimated that no specific complaint has been made to them in this respect. However, the Election Commission has taken strict measures to prevent misuse of money and liquor in elections.

(c) The Election Commission has further intimated that the total seizure of licit and illicit liquor with effect from announcement of elections to the date of poll is 583257 litres and 32980 litres respectively in the State of Punjab. Total unaccounted cash seized including jewellery during the election in Punjab is Rs. 11,96,97,107/-.

(d) The Election Commission has also intimated that it has made every effort to conduct election in peaceful, free and fair manner. Whenever any complaint was received, necessary action was taken.

### **Employment opportunities for women in SSI**

4111. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state: