

(e) if not, the legal reforms contemplated, if any, by Government to deal with the increasing number of cases of crimes against women?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (e) As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, a total of 203804, 213585 and 228650 cases of crime against women were registered during the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. The disposal and pendency of court cases on crime against women fall within the domain of judiciary. No separate data on the subject is available nor is being maintained by Government.

Police and Public Order being State subjects under the Constitution, primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including the crimes against women, lies with the State Governments/UT administrations. The Government of India has been advising them from time to time to give special attention to crimes against women. Ministry of Women and Child Development in Government of India has issued a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 to all State Governments/UT Administrations which *inter-alia* includes setting up of Fast Track Courts.

Besides continuous efforts to bring down the pendency of cases, Government has enacted a number of legislations for the protection of women. The review of these laws is carried out from time to time for amendments to improve their effectiveness as well as to bring about new legislations, whenever required. The protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act was enacted in 2005. A Bill for Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 2010. Further, amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr PC) were carried out in the years 2005 and 2008 to strengthen the law for prevention of crime against women and to safeguard the interest of women.

#### **Regulation of legal education**

1640. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to replace the Bar Council of India (BCI) with a full time panel of experts and academicians under the National Council for Higher Education and Research and minimize BCI's role in regulating legal education;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is a fact that after sparing almost a year and a half, both Government and BCI have arrived at a compromise and BCI would continue to control legal education and Government would have control over diplomas and degrees such as Bachelor of Academic Laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has introduced "The Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011" in the Rajya Sabha on 28.12.2011. The Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011 has been referred to the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development and is pending consideration before the Committee. The Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011 provides for constitution of Expert Advisory Groups, consisting of such number of persons as may be deemed fit, for assisting the General Council in advising the National Commission for Higher Education and Research. The head of the Bar Council of India shall preside over the Expert Advisory Group concerning legal education.

(c) and (d) The Bar Council of India has informed that the Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister *vide* his letters dated 06.07.2012 and 30.07.2012 has assured that the powers of the BCI in relation to educational institutions leading to grant of degree for the practice of law shall not be affected by the proposed Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011.

#### **Hearing of writ petitions in Supreme Court**

1641. SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that writ petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Right to Education Act and clause (5) to Article 15 and Article 21-A of the Constitution of India were referred by a bench of three Judges of the Supreme Court to the Constitution Bench of five Judges by order dated 6 September, 2010 but were finally heard and decided by a three judge bench by judgment dated 12 April, 2012; and

(b) whether the Central Government, a respondent in the above case, objected to the hearing of the writ petitions by a three judge bench?