

of 16, December, 2012, 36 cases of rape have been registered by Delhi Police from 17.12.2012 to 31.12.2012 and 181 cases of rape have been registered from 01.01.2013 to 15.02.2013 by Delhi Police.

The Delhi Police has been promptly taking up rape cases investigation which is borne out from the table showing worked out percentage of rape cases during the years 2009 to 2012:-

Year	Worked out percentage
2009	98.50
2010	99.01
2011	97.52
2012	93.62

Leaking of letter from Home Secretary to COAS

1015. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Home Secretary had written a letter to the Chief of Air Staff about the recent forced landing of a helicopter in Chhattisgarh and that this letter was leaked to media;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any investigation on the leaking of this letter and the background behind this letter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) The Union Home Secretary had written a demi-official letter dated 28.01.2013 to the Secretary, Ministry of Defence on the said matter. The contents of this letter were not disclosed to the Media by the Ministry of Home Affairs and hence, there is no question of any inquiry into the matter.

Pending mercy petitions

1016. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a lot of mercy petitions are pending with Government for a very long time;
- (b) if so, the case-wise details thereof and time by when the petition is pending; and
- (c) what is the general procedure in disposing of mercy petitions and by when petitions of dreaded criminals will be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Presently, 9 mercy petition cases of prisoners on death row are pending under Article 72 of the Constitution of India. The list of these cases is enclosed as Annexure.

(c) The cases of mercy petition are processed expeditiously in consultation with the concerned Governments/Departments and President's Secretariat for a final decision of the President of India under Article 72 of the Constitution. However, the power under Article 72 of the Constitution does not contain any limitation as to the time, in which the power conferred might be exercised.

Encounter between police and naxalites at Gadchiroli

†1017. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an encounter took place between the police and the naxalites at Gadchiroli in Maharashtra recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is taking any measures to deal with the naxalites in view of the steadily increasing incidents of naxalism in the Naxal affected areas of the country;
- (d) whether the naxalites have caused heavy loss to life and property in the Naxal affected areas of the country during the last two years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) In an incident of exchange of fire between the CPI (Maoist) cadres and Maharashtra Police in the intervening night of 19/20 January, 2013 near village Govindgaon, PS Aheri, Gadchiroli district, 06 armed CPI (Maoist)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.