

that person's natural life. The offence of rape on a woman when she is under sixteen years of age or the rape of a woman by relative, guardian or teacher or a person in a position of trust or authority towards the woman, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment of a minimum of ten years extendable to life imprisonment, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of that person's natural life.

Tough anti-terrorism law

4578. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after a number of terror attacks, including the latest twin blasts at Hyderabad, Government is lax in providing security to the common man;

(b) whether people in the country want a tough anti-terrorism law, deterring all terror groups; and

(c) whether Government would learn anything from the USA and practice the same in the interest of National Security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The Government is committed to combat terrorism in all its forms in order to ensure safety and security of the common man. It is committed to thwart any evil design/plan of terrorist or terror groups/outfits to carry out attacks in any part of the country in all forms or manifestations. As such, there exists a very close and effective coordination amongst intelligence agencies at the centre and State level. Intelligence inputs about possible designs and threats are shared with the State Governments concerned on a regular basis. The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) has been strengthened and reorganized to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence agencies and security intelligence inputs are also shared with the concerned States through the established mechanism, which ensures close coordination and sharing of intelligence and seamless flow of information between the State and the Central security and law enforcement agency. This has resulted in busting of terrorist modules and a number of possible terror attacks have been averted.

(b) and (c) At present, the investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts are governed under a comprehensive and stringent counter terrorism regime with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 as the flagship enactment. In order to

make the Act more effective, it has been amended in 2008 and 2012, whereby the definition of Terrorist Act has been made more broad-based to enable it combat all aspects of terrorism and its support base. With the amendments in 2008, raising of funds for the purpose of terrorism has been defined as a terrorist act besides criminalizing the act of knowingly holding or being in possession of proceeds of terrorism or property derived from terrorism. Further, the term "proceeds of terrorism" has been comprehensively defined. Canvassing for funds, receiving funds, providing funds knowing or suspecting that it may be used for terrorism has also been criminalized. Detailed provisions have also been made for freezing, seizure and forfeiture of funds and property. *Vide* the amendment of 2012, the production/smuggling/circulation of fake Indian currency notes have been included in the definition of terrorism. Further, the period of proscription of unlawful association from the existing two years has been enhanced to five years. Due to the stringent existing law against terrorism, the security/investigation agencies are able to investigate and prosecute the terror cases in an effective manner, which has acted as a deterrent measure against the terrorists and terror groups leading to reduced incidents of major terror attack in the near past.

Languages in Eighth Schedule

4579. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many languages were included into Eighth Shedule when constitution of India was made and how many were added latter;
- (b) whether the Talu language is being added in the Eighth Schedule; and
- (c) whether there is any such proposal and what is Government's stand thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Initially 14 languages were included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Thereafter, eight more languages were added to the Eighth Schedule.

(b) and (c) At present, there are demands for inclusion of 38 more languages including Tulu in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. A Committee was constituted in 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to evolve a set of objective criteria with reference to which all proposals/representations for