

Capital punishment for committing rapes of minor girls and gang rape

†*52. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether horrific crimes committed against the victims of rapes of minor girls and gang rape are far more heinous than murder;
- (b) whether Government proposes to introduce a Bill regarding awarding death penalty to the accused in such heinous cases of 'rape' within a prescribed time limit;
- (c) if so, by when along with the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Government has already promulgated the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 on 03.02.2013 to provide for more stringent punishment for cases of sexual assault. The enhanced punishments for offence of sexual assault under sub-section (1) and (2) of section 376, section 376A, section 376B, section 376C, section 376D and section 376E of the Indian Penal Code in the Ordinance range from a minimum punishment of 7 years, extendable to life imprisonment which will mean imprisonment for the rest of that person's natural life or to death. These provisions provide punishment irrespective of the age of the victim and also cover sexual assault by gangs, repeat offenders of the crimes of sexual assault, etc. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013 will be introduced in the current session of the Parliament to replace the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013.

Committee to investigate Walmart's lobbying disclosure

*53. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted a Committee to investigate into Walmart's lobbying related disclosure and payment to Indian middlemen on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the country;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference given to the Committee; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.