

- (c) by when, Government has asked the Committee to submit its Report?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government has appointed a one-man inquiry Committee regarding media reports concerning Walmart. The terms of reference are as under:

- (i) To inquire into recent media reports on disclosures of Walmart before the US Senate regarding their lobbying activities and details thereof.
- (ii) Whether Walmart undertook any activities in India in contravention of any Indian law.
- (iii) Any other matter relevant or incidental to the above.

The Committee has been asked to submit its report within three months from issuance of resolution dated 31.1.2013.

**Including stalking women under new Criminal Amendment Law**

†\*54. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government views stalking any girl or woman or stripping off her clothes as sexual offence;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to bring such offences under the new Criminal (Amendment) Laws being framed; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government has promulgated the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 on 03.02.2013.

The offence of stalking has been covered under section 354D of the Ordinance which states that whoever follows a person and contacts, or attempts to contact such person to foster personal interaction repeatedly, despite a clear indication of disinterest by such person, or whoever monitors the use by a person of the internet, email or any other form of electronic communication, or watches or spies on a person in a manner that results in a fear of violence or serious alarm or distress in the mind of such person, or interferes with the mental peace of such

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

person, commits the offence of stalking. Stalking shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to three years, and shall be liable to fine. Assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to disrobe her or to be naked in any public place is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and with fine under the section 354A of the Indian Penal Code. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013 will be introduced in the current session of the Parliament to replace the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013.

#### **Joining RCEP**

\*55. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India proposes to join the biggest trade block *i.e.* Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how far this will help to boost bilateral trade;
- (d) whether this will also help Indians stationed and working in such block nations;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether certain additional kinds of facilities are proposed to be given to Indian workers in other countries; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (g) Sir, the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) and its FTA Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand) have been deliberating on a Regional Economic Architecture for East Asia for greater integration. While China has been promoting the idea of East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) comprising ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea), Japan was championing the case of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) comprising of ASEAN + 6 (Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand). During the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting held on 13th