

The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Age of voting right

1037. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Constitution of India provides for voting rights to Indian citizens from the time they are 18 years old;

(b) whether this mandate is largely frustrating due to the qualifying date having been prescribed as 1st of January of the year in which the electoral rolls are revised; and

(c) whether an amendment will be introduced immediately to correct this lacuna well before the Lok Sabha Elections 2014?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To have uniformity in the preparation or revision of electoral roll one qualifying date *i.e.* 1st January of every year has been prescribed under clause (b) of section 14 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the mandate is frustrating due to the qualifying date.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending cases against juveniles

1038. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that around 5000 cases are pending against juveniles and some of them are languishing for over 12 years;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps for their rehabilitation, proper education and proper protection against abuses; if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) As per the Information furnished by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the data of number of cases pending against juveniles and children languishing for years in Observation Homes in the States/UTs is not maintained centrally. Section