Repeal of archaic and redundant laws

1152. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noted or listed the old, archaic and almost redundant laws created during the British Rule, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to remove them and unburden the judicial system, if so, how and when?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India had, on 8th May, 1998 set-up a Commission on Review

of Administrative Laws under the Chairmanship of Shri. P. C. Jain to examine the need of amendments in and repeal of obsolete laws. The said Commission had submitted its Report in September, 1998. In its report, the Commission has recommended to repeal 1383 Acts and 415 Acts have been repealed so far.

(b) Review and repeal of obsolete laws, including those enacted during the British era, is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by different nodal Ministries/Departments of the Central Government administering the respective laws allocated to them. The Government of India has constituted Twentieth Law Commission on 1st September, 2012 for three-year's term and whose terms of reference include "Review/Repeal of obsolete laws". The Law Commission is actively pursuing to identify laws which are no longer needed and relevant and can be repealed immediately. Further, repeal of amending Acts is a regular exercise undertaken by the Legislative Department. Last such exercise was undertaken in 2001 by way of 'The Repeal and Amending Act, 2001' covering the amending Acts from 1985 to 1998. Legislative Department has initiated similar exercise in this year and requested all the Ministries/Departments of Central Government to provide a list of amending Acts from 1999 onwards, retention whereof on the statute book has become unnecessary.

Electoral reforms

1153. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the reforms outlined after the National and Regional Consultations on Electoral reforms concerning criminalization of politics have been implemented;
 and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) During the seven regional consultations held at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati views were gathered from the stakeholders. Thereafter, on 16.01.2013, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety was referred to the Law Commission of India with a request to consider the issue after taking into consideration the reports of various committees in the past, views of the Election Commission and other stake holders and suggest comprehensive measures for changes in the law and to give concrete suggestions. The Law Commission has submitted its 244th Report on "Electoral Disqualification" regarding disqualification on