

Repealing old and outdated laws

719. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to repeal old and outdated laws existing for several decades in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to repeal them forthwith ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Review and repeal of out-dated/obsolete laws, including those enacted during the British era, is a continuous process. The Repealing and the Amending Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 11 August, 2014 for repeal of 36 Acts. The said Bill has been referred to Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee.

The Legislative Department has prepared draft Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 for repeal of 287 amendments Acts from the year 1999 to 2013 and forwarded the same to all Ministries/Departments for their comments/views. The comments are still awaited.

The Law Commission has recently submitted its 248th, 249th, 250th and the 251st Reports on "Obsolete Laws : Warranting Immediate Repeal", in which it recommended for repeal of 72, 113, 74 and 30 obsolete Acts respectively, including some State laws. The said Reports are available on the website of the Law Commission at <http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in>. The legislative Department has examined the said Reports and letters have been issued to Ministries/Departments and the State Governments seeking their comments and also asking them to take necessary action for repeal of certain Acts which now falls under their ambit under the Constitution. The replies are still awaited.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Department has identified and prepared a list of the 892 Appropriation Acts [including the Appropriation (Railways)] enacted by Parliament from the year 1950 till 2012 for repeal and have been sent to the Department of Expenditure and Ministry of Railways for their comments. The Ministry of Railways has agreed with the views of the Legislative Department subject to the comments/views of the Ministry of Finance, comments of which are still awaited.