

Including districts of Odisha under SRE scheme

2801. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha has requested the Union Government for inclusion of Boudh, Angul and Sonepur districts under the Central Government sponsored Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The State Government of Odisha had requested for inclusion of additional two districts namely, Boudh and Sonepur under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States. Proposals are received from the State Governments from time to time for inclusion of more districts under the SRE Scheme. The inclusion/exclusion of districts under the SRE Scheme is based on their violence profile and is a continuous process.

**Curbs on freedom of speech and expression
by removal of Section 124A of IPC**

2802. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered to delete Section 124A of IPC, which has been misused many a time by the States to curb the freedom of speech and expression conferred by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution; and

(b) the State-wise details of number of sedition cases filed during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. However, amendments in criminal justice system are a continuous process. The Law Commission of India has since been requested to undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system and give a comprehensive report covering all aspects of criminal law so that comprehensive amendments can be made in the various laws viz. Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, etc.

(b) The State/Union Territory-wise details of number of cases filed under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code during the last year, as reported by the National Crime Records Bureau, is given in Statement.