

from the Government of Karnataka, there is shortage of staff to the extent of 25 personnel in various cadres.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Proposal for introduction of Passport Reading Machines at Bangalore International Airport is under active consideration of this Ministry.

Reforms in the Criminal Justice System

832. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of bringing about reforms in the Criminal Justice System in the country;

(b) if so, the details of reforms that it proposes in the Criminal Justice System;

(c) whether Government propose recording of evidence of witnesses under oath in the presence of a magistrate; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGHUPATHY): (a) and (b) The reforms in the Criminal Justice System in the country is a continuous process. The Code of Criminal procedure, 1973 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860 are being amended as and when need arises, on the basis of the recommendations of the Law Commission of India or other special Committees set up for the purpose.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha is based on the recommendations made by the Law Commission, National Police Commission and other agencies. The thrust areas of the Bill are:—

- (i) Toning up the investigative machinery and process;
- (ii) Strengthening the prosecution and related machinery;
- (iii) Streamlining and improving procedures, especially from the point of view of expediting trial court procedures;
- (iv) tackling the problem of undertrials and matters connected with the grant of bail; and
- (v) Effecting miscellaneous improvements.

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 2003 have important proposals to prevent witnesses from the turning hostile, introduction of the concept of plea bargaining, summary trial for perjury etc.

Apart from the above, the Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System in its report have recommended various changes to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and other laws. The Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and they are administered by the State Governments. Therefore, before effecting major changes in these laws, consultations with State Governments are essential. Accordingly, the Report of the Malimath Committee was forwarded to the State Governments for their views.

(c) and (d) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has, *inter alia*, a proposal for recording of evidence of witnesses under oath in the presence of a Magistrate in all offences punishable with death or imprisonments for seven years or more.

Programme on solar energy in private homes

833. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the success rate of the programme to provide solar energy in private homes and building in the country;

(b) why this campaign has failed in most parts of the country;

(c) what steps are being taken to provide technology to the common man to take advantage of solar energy; and

(d) which NGOs have been involved with this programme and how much grant has been provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Solar energy can be used in homes and buildings for lighting, water heating, cooking and space heating. A large number of solar energy devices have been installed in both rural and urban areas of the country under programmes supported by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Surveys conducted by independent organizations show that 97% of solar water heaters installed in Karnataka, 96% in Maharashtra and