Death penalty for rape of girls below 12 years

2712. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is facing serious opposition from social activists including Child Right Activists in its efforts to prescribe death penalty for rape of girls below the age of 12;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any suggestions/representations/ memoranda in this regard; and
- (d) whether Government is determined to move further in this regard or going to wait and seek more suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) No Sir, as reported by Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government has not received any representation from Child Right Activists opposing the death penalty for rape of girls below 12 years of age. However, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018 has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 30.07.2018 and by the Rajya Sabha on 06.08.2018.

Scheme for maternity entitlements

2713. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Food Security Act, 2013 mandates ₹ 6,000/- as maternity entitlements to be paid per child to every pregnant woman;
- (b) whether the Ministry has launched a scheme for maternity entitlements to provide ₹ 5,000/- per child to pregnant women and if so, the reasons the Ministry has launched a scheme with reduced entitlement;
- (c) the details of applications received during 2017-18 for claiming maternity entitlements under the scheme; and
- (d) the number of women who have received such entitlements along with the amount spent on crediting entitlements, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) Section 4 (b) of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that subject to such schemes as may be framed by the Central Government, every pregnant woman and lactating mother, except those in regular employment with the Central Government or State Governments or Public Sector Undertakings or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force, are entitled to maternity benefit of not less than ₹ 6,000/-, in such instalments as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(b) The Government has approved Pan-India implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a new Centrally Sponsored Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme, on 17.05.2017 for implementation across the country with effect from 01.01.2017. Under the scheme, ₹ 5,000/- is provided to the eligible beneficiary in three installments. The eligible beneficiary also receives the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets ₹ 6,000/-.