

Legislation for capital punishment for rapists

†1321. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a sharp increase in incidents of crime and rape in most parts of the country, particularly in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in the last few months;

(b) if so, the details of the cases of crime and rape registered in the above States from March, 2017 to January, 2018;

(c) the details of the steps taken to curb the increasing incidents of crime and rape; and

(d) whether Government proposes to bring a legislation for capital punishment for the rapists of women and girls, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) The details of State/UT-wise (including Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh) and Crime Head-wise cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases that resulted in conviction, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted for crime against women during 2014-2016 are given in the Statement-I and Statement-II respectively. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to the Answer to SQ No. 135 (Part (a) to (d))]

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens rests primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws.

However, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, which has come into force since 3rd Feb, 2013 on crime against women, has enhanced punishment for crimes such as rape, sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, acid attacks, indecent gestures such as words and inappropriate touch etc. The new law has provisions for increased sentence for rape convicts, including life-term and death sentence, besides providing for stringent punishment for offences such as acid attacks, stalking and voyeurism.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued Advisories for combating crimes against women and children. These Advisories are also available on www.mha.gov.in.

(d) Amendments in law relating to the criminal justice system are a continuous and ongoing process.

Rules for disposing properties of people who left after partition

1322. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to dispose of properties belonging to people who had left for countries like Pakistan after partition and which are free from any legal tangle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to notify the rules expeditiously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017 has provision under Section 8A to dispose of Enemy Properties vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property for India.

(c) and (d) The amended rules have been finalised in consultation with Ministry of Law and Justice and the Enemy Property (Amendment) Rules, 2018 as to be notified shortly.

Training to police force in forensic science

1323. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide basic training to policemen in forensic science as it was going to be the most effective weapon to deal with crimes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of knowledge, there is a risk of evidences getting corrupted or destroyed;