

**Steps taken to prevent custodial cruelty**

2126. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to ratify the 1997 United Nations convention against torture in custody;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent custodial cruelty and also to punish its perpetrators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) The proposed amendments to Sections 330 and 331 of Indian Penal Code to define the words "Torture" and "Public Servant" were included in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2016, and the draft formulation was circulated to all the State Governments/UTs. The proposal was also forwarded to Law Commission of India for their comments. The Law Commission, after examining this Ministry's draft formulation, has submitted its 273rd Report on "Implementation of United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment" on 30.10.2017 along with a draft "The Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017". As Criminal Laws are in the Concurrent List, this report along with the draft Bill has been circulated to the State Governments/UTs for their views.

- (c) Police and Public Order are State subjects and the State Governments are primarily responsible for enforcing the law to prevent custodial cruelty and also to punish its perpetrators.

**Construction of bunkers along LoC**

2127. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Minister had assured during his visit to LoC (Line of Control) for construction of large number of bunkers for safety of villagers residing in border areas;
- (b) if so, whether bunkers have been constructed by now;
- (c) if so, the number of bunkers being constructed, sector-wise; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?