

- (v) The Ministry of Tourism conducts a constant dialogue with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, various tourism related institutions and stakeholders for drawing up strategies for development and promotion of tourism in the country including safe and honourable Tourism.
- (vi) The Ministry of Tourism from time to time issues advisory to various State Governments and UT Administrations to ensure safety and security of the tourist.

Low conviction in rape cases due to non-availability of DNA tests

225. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether conviction in rape cases is getting delayed due to non-availability of DNA tests from the Central Forensic Labs; and
- (b) if so, what steps Government is taking to augment the staff strength in the Central Forensic Labs so that conviction cases could be expedited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Forensic analysis report is a critical supporting evidence in investigations in sexual assault cases, including rape cases. Delay in convictions may occur due to various factors including non-availability of forensic analysis reports, timely completion of investigation and filing of charge sheet, witnesses turning hostile and victims consistency during trials.

(b) In order to ensure timely conviction in sexual assault cases including rape cases, Government has taken various steps including grant of approval to 48 new scientific and administrative posts and hiring of manpower through Forensic Aptitude and Caliber Test 2018 (FACT & FACT Plus).

Implementation of New Prison Manual, 2016

226. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the policies that Ministry had undertaken in the past to overcome the problem of overcrowding, delay in trial, inadequate food and clothing and deficiency in communication of prisoners;