

**Legal age of marriage for women**

583. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a taskforce to reconsider legal age of marriage for women; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind this move?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India, during her Budget Speech for 2020-21 in Parliament, the Government of India, *vide* notification number S.O. 1736(E), dated the 4 June, 2020 had set up a Task Force to examine the matters pertaining to the age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), improvement of nutritional levels and related issues.

**Virtual courts in rural areas**

584. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether courts in rural areas have adequate infrastructure to move to virtual hearing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has allocated funds to make the transition to virtual courts in rural areas smoother, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what other steps, if any, the Ministry has taken to strengthen the IT infrastructure of courts in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including Taluk Level Court Complexes in rural areas under the Phase II of the e-Courts Project for virtual hearings. To further augment the Video Conferencing infrastructure, the eCommittee of the Supreme Court has approved Video Conferencing