

Amendment in rape laws

3192. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in Hindu dated 3rd December, 2002, under the heading, "Report on overhaul of rape laws gathering dust";

(b) if so, whether an overhaul of the rape law is not just the demand of women's organizations and recommendation of the Law Commission of India, even Government's task force advocated several changes in the rape laws as recently as April, 2002;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have examined various points raised in the press report; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to implement the rape laws, pending for action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Law Commission of India, in its 172nd Report on 'Review of Rape Laws' recommended changes in the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to deal with sexual offences more effectively.

The State Governments have been requested to furnish their views on the recommendations of Law Commission of India as the Criminal Law and Criminal procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Uttaranchal

†3193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Uttaranchal where Navodaya Vidyalayas have not been opened yet; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) by when Navodaya Vidyalayas would be started in those districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) There are three districts in Uttaranchal namely (1) Pithoragarh (2) Begeshwarand (3) Pauri Garhwal where Navodaya Vidyalas have not yet been opened. The Navodaya Vidyalayas are opened on receipt of the proposal from State Government offering land and suitable infrastructure for immediate starting of the school. Such proposals in respect of the above Districts have not been received.

Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh

3194. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central Schools running in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) the number of students supposed to be in each class of these schools, as per rules;
- (c) whether the number of students in schools in remote areas is very less; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve this prblem?

THE MINISTER-OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Kendriya Vidyalayas are not opened District-wise/Panchayat-wise.They are opened at places having concentration of transferable Central Government employees. Subject to the provision of inf rastructural facilities by the sponsoring authorities and availability of funds. At present, there are 19 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State of Himachal Pradesh, a list thereof is attached as statement. (See below)

(b) Normally, a section of a class fias 30—35 students.

(c) and (d) Enrolment depeneds on the availability of children in an area. The schools, which have less enrolment, have been asked to issue advertisements intimating availability of vacancies in different classes so as to attract more children.