

(c) Instructions have been reiterated that persons in custody be treated in accordance with the law and that resort to coercive methods shall not be made. Strict action, including criminal prosecution list taken whenever any police official is found indulging to torture or held responsible for a custodial death.

Special inputs have been introduced in the induction and 'in-service' training programmes to sensitise police officers about using scientific methods of investigation.

Interrogation rooms are being relocated to make them more visible and to bring them close to the reporting rooms so as to minimise scope for violation of the instructions.

SC/St Posts of Post Masters in Bihar

784. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of village post masters appointed in Bihar during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of post out of them, reserved for SCs and STs candidates;

(c) the number of SCs and STs candidates appointed against these reserved posts, year-wise;

(d) whether rules regarding the provision of reservation for SCs and STs have not been complied with;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof;

(f) whether the Government have received complaints in this regard; and

(g) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Indian Prison Act, 1894

785. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has demanded for updating and amending the outdated Indian Prison Act, 1894; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) and (b) In response to the need expressed in different forums, including the All India Committee on Jail Reforms, 1980-83, the National Rights Commission is of the view that the Prisons Act, 1894 requires to be amended and updated.

The Government of India fully shares this view. 'Prisons' being a State subject, however, an interaction with the States has been taken up with a view to consulting them on the lines on which the law/manuals relating to Prison administration may be amended by the Centre/State Governments.

Redline Buses

786. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Redlines turn rapelines" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 11, 1995.

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether pick-pocketing, rape and molestation etc. on board these private buses is occurring with alarming frequency;

(d) if so, the details of such cases detected during the current year, so far in Delhi;

(e) the action taken against the persons involved in such cases; and

(f) the steps to ensure that such cases are not repeated in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While action on all the incidents cited in the news-item has been taken, the details of the incidents are given in the enclosed statement I.

(c) to (e) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement II.

(f) The following steps have been taken to check/prevent the above crime.

(i) Staff in plain clothes is detailed to check such incidents at Bus Stands as well as in Buses.

(ii) Buses are being checked frequently to prevent the above incident.

(iii) Patrolling parties have been briefed to keep close watch at Bus stands while patrolling in the area.

(iv) Traps are being launched to apprehend the accused during peak hours.

(v) Drive has been launched to make it compulsory for both the driver and conductor to wear PSV (Public Safety Vehicle) badges, which is given only to those who have undergone police verification. This would eliminate unverified persons manning the buses in Delhi.