

[*Translation*]

Punishment for Attempt to Commit Suicide

5416. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bombay and Delhi High Courts have nullified Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code regarding awarding punishment for attempt to commit suicide;

(b) if so, whether keeping this in view Government propose to delete this section from the penal code or to bring a bill incorporating an amended section defining various circumstances of attempts to commit suicide and providing punishment therefor; and

(c) whether Government also propose to introduce a bill to abolish the provision of capital punishment from the penal code in view of the judgements given by the courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Delhi High Court characterised the continuance of Section 309 IPC relating to attempt to commit suicide as an anachronism and quashed all prosecutions pending under this section. The Bombay High Court held section 309 IPC *ultra vires* of the Constitution being violative of articles 14 and 21 thereof, and struck it down. However, the Constitutional validity of this section is to be decided by the Supreme Court where a writ petition is pending.

(b) The Law Commission in its 42nd Report recommended repeal of section 309, IPC. This recommendation will be kept in view when the Government processes amendments to the Indian Penal Code.

(b) No, Sir.

[*English*]

Help to Deaf and Dumb Schools

5417. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to give more help to Deaf and Dumb Schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of proposals received from Karnataka Government and how many of them have been approved so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON) : (a) and (b). Under the Scheme of Assistance to Organisations for the disabled persons, this Ministry is giving grant-in-aid to the voluntary organisations who are engaged in running Special Schools for the Handicapped in the country which includes Deaf and Dumb schools. During the last two years, an amount of Rs. 283.92 lakhs and Rs. 321.17 lakhs was sanctioned to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of disabled persons, which includes deaf and dumb schools. During 1987-88, a sum of Rs. 340.30 lakhs has been released so far. More funds are likely to be made available for giving financial assistance during the year 1988-89 to the Organisations which include Deaf and Dumb Schools.

(c) Four proposals have been received during 1987-88 from Voluntary Organisations running Deaf and Dumb Schools in Karnataka. Out of these, three have been sanctioned grant-in-aid.

**Survey of Indian Work in Super Conductivity
by a U.S. Agency**

5418. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the United States National Science Foundation conducted a survey of Indian work in super conductivity;

(b) if so, whether permission for such a survey was granted; and

(c) if so, Government's views on its findings on possible co-operation between the two countries on this subject ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN