

North Eastern Railway
Kathihar Division

Eastern Railway
Dhanbad, Danapur & Mughalsarai Divisions

South Eastern Railway
Chakradharpur Division

Amendments to I.P.C.

4925. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Home Affairs in their 25th report on the Criminal Law (second amendment) Bill, 1995 had recommended amendments to the Indian Penal Code to empower the Courts to order payment of compensation to a victim of unlawful arrest or illegal detention; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Bill, 1995 is given in the statement attached. The Bill which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21st August, 1995, lapsed due to adissolution of the Xth Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

Twenty-Fifth Report of Committee on Home Affairs on the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Bill, 1995

1. The Chairman of the Committee on Home Affairs, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee relating to the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Bill, 1995. The Bill seeks to further amend the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

2. In pursuance of the Rules relating to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, in consultation with the Speaker, Lok Sabha, referred the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Bill, 1995, as introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 21st August, 1995 and pending therein, to the Committee for examination and report.

3. The Committee invited the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, to make a presentation on the various provisions of the Bill. Accordingly, he made a presentation before the Committee on the 21st November, 1995. During his presentation, he explained the Salient features of the Bill and the circumstances necessitating the present legislation.

4. The Committee took up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill in its meeting held on the 22nd November, 1995.

5. The Committee considered and adopted the Report in its meeting held on the 4th December, 1995.

6. The principal changes suggested by the Committee in the Bill and the reasons therefor are set out hereinafter:—

Clause 2

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to amend Section 220 of the Indian Penal Code, relating to punishment for corrupt or malicious commitment for trial or confinement by persons having authority. As stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Bill, India became a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1979. Para 5 of Article 9 of the said Covenant envisage: an enforceable right of compensation for illegal detention etc. At present, there is no provision for payment of compensation to a victim of unlawful arrest or unlawful detention. To fulfil this obligation, an amendment is proposed in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 to make a provision for payment of compensation to such victims. In the proposed amendment, a limit has been fixed that the Court may award compensation not exceeding the amount of fine which that Court is empowered to impose. The Committee, while appreciating the object of the proposed amendment, is of the view that there should not be any limit on the amount of Compensation to be awarded to the victims. Rather it should be proportionate to the period of unlawful detention or confinement undergone by the victims. The Committee is also of the view that there should be a provision for payment of interest in the event of delayed payment of compensation amount. The Committee recommends that Clause 2 be amended accordingly.

7. The Committee agrees with the provisions contained in the remaining Clauses of the Bill.

8. The Committee recommends that the Bill, as reported by it, be passed.

New Delhi
December 4, 1995

RAJNI RANJAN SAHU
CHAIRMAN
Committee on Home Affairs.

[Translation]

Issue of Arms Licence

4926. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: