

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6698
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2000
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON WOMEN
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

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

- (a) whether the National Commission for women has rejected his Ministry's recommendations that rape convicts be awarded the death penalty;
- (b) if so, the details of the arguments put forward by the National Commission for Women in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) The National Commission for Women is not in favour of award of death penalty for the rape convicts. Among the reasons put forward by them, one is that enhancement of punishment would lead to a fall in conviction rates. Secondly, the chances that victims would be killed to eliminate evidence after rape would be higher. The Commission has also stated that death penalty is barbaric and the human rights issue of right to live has also to be kept in mind in this context.

(c) While considering the proposal of having death sentence for rapists, the views of the National Commission for Women for not providing death penalty for rapists will be kept in mind.