

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3105  
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2003  
CONFERENCE FOR AMENDMENT TO IPC  
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a conference of women groups, child rights, health and human rights organizations organized by `Voices Against Section 377` was held in Novemer, 2003;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the conference;
- (c) whether the conference inter alia suggested the repeal of Section 377 of the Indian Panel Code;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has considered these suggestions; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) to (f): After detailed discussions with various NGOs such as Sakshi, Interventions for Support, Healing and Awareness (IFSHA), All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and the National Commission for Women (NCW), the Law Commission, in its 172nd Report on `Review of Rape Laws` has recommended changes for widening the scope of the offence in section 375 and to make it gender neutral. Various other changes have also been recommended in sections 376 and 376A to 376D and insertion of a new section 376E dealing with unlawful sexual contact. In the light of these recommendations, the Law Commission was of the opinion that section 377 deserved to be deleted.

The Report of the Law Commission has been referred to the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations for their views as the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As there are considerable number of recommendations needing deep study and careful consideration, it is not possible at this stage to specify any rigid time-frame in this regard.