

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2396
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2010
REPEALING OF OBSOLETE LAWS
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central and State laws/statutes which are in force in the country;
- (b) whether any study has been carried out by the Government to determine as to which of these laws are archaic and obsolete and need to be repealed;
- (c) if so, the details of such archaic laws repealed from 1st January, 2000 to 31st December,2009;
- (d) whether the recommendations for Review of Administrative Laws 1998 renewed some of the laws/Act and made certain recommendations;
- (e) if so, the salient features of the recommendations;
- (f) the details of the recommendations which have been implemented so far; and
- (g) the other steps taken by the Government to repeal the laws which have lost their relevance?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) and (b) Presently, there are about 1186 Central Acts in the country. Review/repeal of all laws, including those archaic laws enacted during the British era, with a view to bringing them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by concerned nodal Ministries/Departments of the Central Government administering the respective laws and generally by the Law Commission of India, The concerned Ministry/Department examines the recommendations of the Law Commission of India in respect of laws being administered by them as to its feasibility of reviewing or repealing them. As regards State Laws, it is for the concerned State Government to identify such laws prevalent in the respective State and to take a policy decision as to their repeal/review.

(c) Since 1st January, 2000 to 31st December, 2009, 49 repealing Saws have been enacted (Annexure - A) and by the Repealing and Amending Act, 2001 (30 of 2001), 305 dysfunctional laws have been repealed,

{d) to (g) In May, 1998, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of the Central Government constituted a Committee on Review of Administrative Laws under the chairmanship of Shri P.C. Jain with the objective of examining the need of amendments in and repeal of laws, among others. The salient features of the recommendations of the said Committee included, among others, amendment of laws / rules, review of Acts of critical importance and repeal of dysfunctional / irrelevant laws. The Committee submitted its report to the Central Government on 30th September, 1998. The implementation of the said report is being monitored by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. A statement containing the status of repeal and review of Statutes recommended by the Committee is at Annexure-B.