

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2701
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
PREVENTION OF TORTURE BILL
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to enact the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010;
- (b) if so, the time by which such Bill is likely to be introduced alongwith the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the country is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT);
- (d) if so, whether the Bill meets the standards set by the UNCAT;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has received any proposals / recommendations from various State Governments/ organisations including the Law Commission on Torture Bill, 2010;
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of recommendations made including by the Law Commission and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Union Government to amend the Indian Evidence Act for the said purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (h): India is signatory to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. After a lot of deliberations, it has been decided to bring a piece of 'stand alone' legislation for enabling the ratification of the Convention. Accordingly, the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26.4.2010. The Bill has also been passed by the Lok Sabha on 6.5.2010. The Bill, inter alia, contains provisions relating to torture, punishment for torture, cognizance of offences and previous sanction necessary for prosecution.