

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3007
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
AMENDMENT IN CRIMINAL LAW
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to amend the criminal law for stringent punishment for acts of torture by a public servant; and
- (b) if so, the proposed revised definition of the `public servant` and the `torture`?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): India is signatory to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. After a lot a deliberations, it has been decided to bring a piece of 'stand alone' legislation for enabling the retification of the Convention. Accordingly, the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26.4.2010. The Bill was also passed by the Lok Sabha on 6.5.2010. However, the Bill was referred to the Rajya Sabha Select Committee for its examination. The Report of the select Committee was presented to Rajya Sabha on 7.12.2010. The Report of the Committee has been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs on 15.02.2011. The Bill, inter alia, contains the provisions relating to torture, punishment for torture, cognizance of offences, previous sanction necessary for prosecution.