

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3403  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011  
AMENDMENT IN CRIMINAL LAW  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

(a) whether the Government has 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 `public servant` and `torture`?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against torture and other Cruel Inhuman and Degrading Treatment of 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 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26.04.2010. The Bill was also passed by the Lok Sabha on 06.05.2010. 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 07.12.2010. 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.