

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:582
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
REPEALING OF OBSOLETE LAWS
Rama Devi Smt. ;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

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

- (a) whether certain laws in the country are more than 100 years old;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Jain Committee has made any recommendations in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government with regard to these recommendations so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No 582 to be answered on 17.05.2012 regarding 'Repealing of Obsolete Laws'

(a): Yes, madam.

(b): 199 Central Acts enacted upto the year 1912 are in existence. A Statement containing the list of said Acts is at Annexure I.

(c) and (d): Yes, madam. 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. In its report, the said Commission has recommended to repeal certain laws. A Statement containing the laws recommended for repeal is at Annexure II.

(e): Review/repeal of all laws, including those old 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. The Government has enacted the British Statutes (Repeal) Act, 2004 (No. 17 of 2004) to repeal certain laws in so far as they apply to India. Copy of the Act No. 17 of 2004 is at Annexure III.