

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:647

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015

REVIEW OF OUTDATED LAWS

Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) the present status of progress made in the ongoing process of review and repeal of outdated/obsolete laws;
- (b) whether any committee has been set up for the purpose by the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said committee has submitted its report and if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted;
- (d) the total number of Central Acts in existence as of now along with the number of such Acts identified as outdated/obsolete; and
- (e) whether the Law Commission has given any recommendation authorising concerned Ministries to take a decision in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(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reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.647 to be answered on 26-02-2015 regarding "Review of Outdated laws".

(a) to (c) :Review of all laws with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by the different nodal Ministries/Departments of the Central Government administering their respective laws and generally by the Law Commission of India. The Repealing and the Amending Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 11/08/2014 for repeal of 36 Acts, out of which, four Acts were suggested by the other Ministries/Departments. The said Bill has been referred to Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, which has submitted its Report on 18th December, 2014. The recommendations of the Hon`ble Committee have been examined and decided to move the necessary amendments to that Bill in the ensuing Session of Parliament. The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3rd December, 2014 and considered and passed by it on 8th December, 2014. The said Bill proposes to repeal 90 redundant amending Acts, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments. The said Bill was referred to Select Committee of Rajya Sabha, for its examination and Report on receipt of the Report of the Hon`ble Committee necessary action will be taken.

The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws (P.C. Jain Commission) gave its Report in 1998 identifying large body of laws for the purposes of repeal. It has recommended the repeal of 700 Appropriation Acts passed by Parliament from time to time since 1950 as they are, in terms, temporary in nature. The Commission has recommended their repeal on the ground that these laws have become either irrelevant or dysfunctional. The proposal is under examination of the Legislative Department.

A Two-member Committee was constituted by the Prime Minister`s Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws. The said Committee has submitted it`s Report, which has been examined by the Legislative Department. Letters have been sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments for their views/comments on repeal of 637 Acts. Letters are also to be issued to the States for repeal of obsolete Acts, which pertain to their States. The final decision will be taken only after receiving the comments from the Ministries/Departments and State Governments in this regard.

(d): Total 2781 Central Acts are in existence and 1741 Central Acts are identified for repeal by the Two-Member Committee constituted by the Prime Minister's Office.

(e):The Law Commission has submitted its 248th, 249th, 250th and 251st Reports on `Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal`, in which it recommended for repeal of 72, 113, 74 and 30 obsolete Acts respectively, including some State laws. The Legislative Department has examined the said Reports and letters have been issued to Ministries/ Departments and the State Governments seeking their comments and also asking them to take necessary action. The replies are still awaited. The final decision will be taken only after receiving the comments from the Ministries/ Departments and State Governments in this regard.