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Title: Need to make amendments to certain old rules to bring transparency into Governance.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you very much for calling me to speak now.

I wish to laud the efforts of the Government on the issue of de-classification of the documents. This issue has surfaced recently pertaining to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. But there has been an Inter-ministerial Committee which has been appointed. My point of view is that on the one side we have the RTI which gives right to the citizens of the country to have access to the document and, on the other hand, there are certain State rules under which documents repeatedly get destroyed. There is the Official Secrets Act of 1923. The colonial legacy of 1923 should not only be amended but also it should be replaced by a new set of rules. The point I am trying to make is that there should be coherence and harmonious construction of these three enactments so that most of the information should go to the public for their use and bring transparency into governance. An exclusive zone should be created for the top secret matters pertaining to military etc. and categorization should be strengthened.