

Bill lapsed on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 1979. Though the proposal for reintroducing legislation on the lines of the lapsed Bill is under active consideration it is not possible to indicate as to when exactly it would be possible to introduce it.

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : Sir, my specific question is about the deletion of the provisions relating to abortion and miscarriage. But the answer given by the hon. Minister is to bring an amendment to harmonise with the provisions of medical termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. I have read the provisions of the Act of 1971 wherein the right to decide whether the woman can carry pregnancy or not at her free will and desire is not given. That means, she is treated as a machine to conceive and bear a child. So, it violates Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider for bringing forward an amendment to delete the provisions in the Act. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what is the position in this connection to protect the interests of women so far as the termination of pregnancy is concerned. The right should be given to her to decide whether she should carry pregnancy or not.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : Sir, the hon. Member's question is whether the Government proposes to bring forward a legislation to amend the Indian Penal Code. In that regard, I would like to inform the hon. Member, as he has already mentioned, that the Indian penal Code is not coming in the way of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

It is quite liberal and I would request the hon. Member to go through its recommendations and I think, he will be satisfied.

Under the Indian Penal Code, a woman has a right to terminate her pregnancy for saving her life. Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, her rights are very much broad-based and in fact, she has great freedom in the matter. Through a medical practitioner, she can terminate even a 20-week pregnancy even if she is emotionally disturbed or agonised due to pregnancy. I will request the hon. Member to let me know if he wants something more than what

is provided in the Act...*(interruptions)*.

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : According to Sections 3 and 4 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, the length of pregnancy must not exceed 12 weeks, and for that no medical expert can give his opinion definitely. Further, termination of pregnancy is valid where pregnancy is due to rape, or failure of any contraceptive device in the matter of limiting children, pregnancy is under the age of 18 years, or the person is insane. But no right is given to a woman to decide whether she should carry pregnancy wanted or unwanted at her free will..... *(interruptions)*.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : He is not replying to her question. Her question is : Do you want anything more than abortion?...*(interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Why should he be punished for championing the cause of women?

MR SPEAKER : You come to his rescue.

Division of Big States

*28. †**SHRI R. P. DAS :**

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for division of the bigger States into smaller ones and conversion of the State capitals into Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

(b) and (c) . Do not arise.

SHRI R.P. DAS : In answer to the question, it has been stated that no such proposal is under consideration of the Government. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a news item appearing in the **CALCUTTA STATESMAN**, which stated :

“A highly confidential paper, prepared by the backroom boys in the Prime Minister’s office is reported to have recommended the division of the bigger States into smaller ones and conversion of the capital cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow and others into Union Territories. The objective, though unstated, is political and calculated to fortify the Prime Minister’s rule at the Centre and remove all potential threats to him either from the regional parties and their leaders, or from within the Congress (I) units in the States.”

What is the reaction of the Government to this piece of news ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : This whole thing is a figment of imagination of some reporter. There is no such paper and there are no such ideas and there are no such intentions.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Now-a-days, the inter-State problems are increasing, and there are talks of divisions etc. Under the Constitution, there is a provision for appointment of an inter-State Council. Is the Government interested to appoint inter-State Council in order to see that the progress of the country is not hampered, and the water and area disputes are settled amicably. Is there any such proposal ?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Identification of Primitive Tribes

***27. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have submitted proposals to his Ministry to identify some tribes as primitive tribes ; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals sent by different State Governments in 1983-84 and 1984-85 and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of the Government of Gujarat for inclusion of Kolghas in the list of primitive tribal groups was approved in 1983-84. The proposal of the Government of Himachal Pradesh to include Bodh or Bhot, Swangla and Kinnaura tribal communities was not approved in 1984-85 because they did not fulfil criteria necessary for recognition.

‘Quit Nagaland’ Notices on Assamese by N.S.F.

***29. SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the “Quit Nagaland” notices on Assamese people working or staying in Nagaland by the Naga Students Federation (NSF) ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Nagaland was requested to take immediate effective steps to ensure safety and security of all sections of society and deal firmly with all anti-Assamese activities of the N.S.F.

(c) The State Government secured the release of the Assamese officers working in Kohima who were wrongfully detained by NSF. Five NSF members were arrested. Subsequently the students suspended the “Quit Nagaland” notice on 3rd July. The arrested students have since been released on personal bonds.

Meeting of Airlines Security Experts of Several Countries

***30. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :**

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state ;