

(c) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the utility and performance of such schemes/programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

3023 DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sec. 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 restricts maintenance to Rs. 500/-p.m. per person in case of divorce suit; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for early change on such antiquated laws which failed to bring hope to people's lives?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the depreciation of the value of money, a Bill to amend *inter alia* Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on May 9, 1994 with a view to enhancing the maximum limit for payment of maintenance allowance from Rs. 500/- p.m. to Rs. 1,500/- p.m.

[Translation]

#### Report on Code of Criminal Procedure

3024. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations made by the Law Commission in its 154th Report on Code of Criminal Procedure regarding hearing of rape cases;

(b) the details of other important recommendations made therein;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the important recommendations thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to make a provision in the Constitution to conduct the inquiry of rape victims by the lady officers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) The Law Commission in its 154th Report has made a number of recommendations in respect of hearing of rape cases. The main recommendations in this regard are as follows:—

(i) Incorporation of a provision in Section 26(a) of Cr. P.C. that an offence of rape shall be tried as far as practicable by a Court presided over by a woman;

(ii) Section 173(2) of Cr. P.C. may provide that the report of the medical examination of the woman concerned has been attached with the report of the police officer to be sent to the Judicial Magistrate empowered to take cognizance of an offence under sections 376, 376A to 376D I.P.C.;

(iii) In order to prevent trials in rape cases including child rape from being unduly delayed, a provision in sub-section (1) of Section 309 of Cr. P.C. be made that judgement shall, as far as possible be delivered within a period of two months from the date of commencement of examination of witnesses;

(iv) Provision of 'in camera' trial, being conducted as far as practicable by a woman Judge or Magistrate in Section 327(2) of the Code;

(v) Removal of the ban on printing or publication of rape trial proceedings subject to maintaining confidentiality of names and addresses of the parties under Section 327 (3).

(b) Other important recommendations made in the Report relate to establishment of separate investigating agency, independent prosecuting agency, protection and facilities to witnesses, plea bargaining, Nyaya Panchayats, compensation to victims of all crimes, special protection to women etc.

(c) Investigation of an offence of rape being conducted by women police officers is also part of the Report of the 154th Report of the Law Commission. Since the Criminal Procedure is on the Concurrent List of the Constitution and Criminal Laws are administered by State Governments, the Report of the Law Commission has been referred to State Governments for their views. Since some of the recommendations of the Commission do not require any amendment to the Cr. P.C. State Governments have been requested to implement them. These include appointment of women prosecutors, establishment of Nyaya Panchayats, Creation of victims assistance fund separate investigating agency etc. to facilitate expeditious investigations and trials.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Supply of LPG to Fertilizer Unit**

3025. DR. ASHOK PATEL:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a core group to evolve a proper system for supply of liquified natural gas to fertilizer plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said group is likely to submit its reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Core Group of fertilizer companies was constituted on 31.7.98 with a view to explore the feasibility of

importing Liquid Natural Gas to India by forming a consortium of fertilizer companies alongwith other interested economic operators for fertilizer sector in particular and other complementary sectors such as power, domestic fuel etc. The report is in advanced stage of finalisation.

#### **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority**

3026. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised the rates of 26 medicines and hiked the prices of 25 medicines from 2.88 to 45.88 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any announcement has been made by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to bring the formulations of several new drugs under the Drug Price Control Order, 1995 recently;

(d) if so, the names of these formulations and the names of the diseases for which the said formulations are being used in the country;

(e) whether the prices of these formulations have gone down after bringing these formulations under the Drug Price Control Order; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the prices of each formulation gone down alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the Statement.

(c) to (f) No, Sir.