

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1035  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007  
DEFINITION OF RAPE  
Meghwal Shri Kailash

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the legal definition of rape to include other forms of sexual harassment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which such amendment is likely to be carried out?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b) : The Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report on `Review of Rape Laws` has recommended changes for widening the scope of the offence in Section 375 IPC to replace the word `Rape` with `Sexual Assault` and to make it gender neutral. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has separately forwarded a private bill on the same subject to the Government, recommending that the word `Rape` be replaced with `Sexual Assault` in Section 375 of IPC and to widen the scope of the offence prescribed therein.

(c): As Criminal Laws are in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and implementation of these laws primarily vests with the State Governments, their comments are also sought on amendment to the Indian Penal Code, 1860. This also involves introduction and passage of an amendment Bill in Parliament for which no time frame can be fixed.