GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1198

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH JULY, 2025/ SRAVANA 8, 1947 (SAKA)

BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA

1198 # DR. DINESH SHARMA:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the need to replace the Indian Penal Code with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita;
- (b) whether any time limit has been prescribed for the processes of the justice system under the new criminal law; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)

(a): The Law Commission of India in its various Reports had recommended section-specific amendments in the criminal laws. Also, Committees like Bezbaruah Committee, Vishwanathan Committee, Malimath Committee, Madhawa Menon Committee, etc. made recommendations for section-specific amendments in the criminal laws and general reforms in criminal justice system.

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 111th(2005), 128th (2006) and 146th (2010) Reports, recommended for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System

of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piece-meal amendments in respective Acts.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Home Affairs had undertaken the comprehensive review of criminal laws i.e. the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with a view to provide accessible and affordable justice to all and create a legal structure which is citizen centric. The above three Acts have been repealed and replaced by three new laws namely, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 respectively.

(b) & (c): The new criminal laws promise a faster and fair resolution of cases, instilling confidence in the legal system. Crucial stages of investigation and trial like - preliminary enquiry (to be completed in 14 days), further investigation (to be completed in 90 days), supply of document to the victim and accused (within 14 days), commitment of a case for trial (within 90 days), filing of discharge applications (within 60 days), framing of charges (within 60 days), pronouncement of judgment (within 45 days) and filing of mercy petitions (30 days before Governor and 60 days before President) - have been streamlined and to be completed within stipulated time period.
