

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2293**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31ST JULY, 2018/ SHRAVANA 9, 1940 (SAKA)

CHARGES OF SEDITION ON STUDENTS, WORKERS AND FARMERS

**2293. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:
DR. P.K. BIJU:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students, workers/ employees and farmers held in prison under charges of sedition;

(b) whether speedy trials are not held in their case;

(c) whether the Government intends to amend the present provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and Indian Penal Code (IPC) concerning sedition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) & (b): No such information regarding students, workers/employees and farmers is available with National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). However, a total of 18 cases of sedition (124A IPC) were pending for trial till 2015 and 16 cases were sent for trial during 2016. Trials were completed in 3 cases during 2016 of which 1 case resulted in conviction while 2 cases were acquitted.

(c) & (d): Amendment of criminal law is a continuous process and the Government is aware that it has to be in sync with social changes. On the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Law & Justice requested the Law Commission of India in the year 2013 to undertake a review of the criminal justice system and give a comprehensive report in the matter so that amendments can be carried out in the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act. Regarding section 124A of the IPC (Sedition), MHA took up the matter on 09.05.2012 with Ministry of Law & Justice to request the Law Commission of India to study the usage of the provisions of sections 124A, hold consultations and suggest amendment, if any required to the said provision, so that the Government can take necessary steps. The report of the Law Commission is awaited.
