GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3562

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2019/AGRAHAYANA 19, 1941 (SAKA)

CHANGES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

3562. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 16 years ago a Committee was constituted by the Government under Justice V.S. Malimath to suggest necessary changes in the criminal justice system and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Committee lamented that the system was virtually collapsing and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee gave comprehensive recommendations; and

(d) if so, the number of recommendations implemented fully, particularly in the backdrop of the latest Tis Hazari incident which is symptomatic of the collapse of the justice system?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d) : Justice V.S. Malimath Committee on Reforms of the Criminal Justice System was constituted by the Government of India, in November 2000 to consider measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System. The Committee gave its report in March 2003 containing 158 recommendations on various aspects of criminal justice system in the country.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon was constituted on 3.05.2006 to draft a National Policy Paper on Criminal Justice System in the country which submitted a draft National Policy on Criminal Justice in July, 2007. Further, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 146th Report dated 23.06.2010, had recommended that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the country. Earlier the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th Reports had also stressed upon the need to reform and rationalize the criminal law of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piece meal amendments.

Accordingly, the Law Commission of India through the Ministry of Law & Justice was requested to examine and give a comprehensive report covering all aspects of criminal law so that comprehensive amendments can be made in the various laws viz. Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, etc. While requesting the Law Commission of India for a comprehensive review, it was specifically requested to take into account the recommendations of Malimath Committee and Madhava Menon Committee.

The Law Commission vide their letter dated 11.12.14 had intimated that they have identified certain focus areas and formed sub-groups to deliberate on such areas.

-2-