

(a) whether the border with Pakistan is proposed to be sealed in Kashmir as has been done by Pakistan on the Western border; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) and (b) There are no reports to indicate that Pakistan has sealed the Western border. As per information available, Prime Minister, Pakistan, during a meeting to review the law and order situation in Sindh, had given direction to deal the International border of Sindh.

2. Considerable portion of the border with Pakistan in J&K can not be fenced due to rugged nature of the terrain and gaps due to rivers, nullahs and streams etc. However, fencing of the Jammu International Border is under active consideration of the Government.

3. Further, Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle infiltration and militancy which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, well-coordinated and sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements by the State and Central agencies, intensification of patrolling and checking on border and other vulnerable areas, upgrading of technical equipments with the police and security forces, improved inter-action with the border population, etc.

Improvement of Unorganised Labour

*330. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI K.P. MÜNUSAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any measure for improvement the lot of unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken in this regard so far and its impact?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A number of labour laws enacted for protection of workers' rights and for their welfare are also applicable to unorganised workers. Some of these laws are: the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976,

the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in these unorganised/informal sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

The Government are also implementing a number of poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (D.W.C.R.A.), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc. which are designed especially to benefit rural poor including workers in these unorganised/informal sector.

As regards fresh policy initiatives, the Central Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest activity, after agriculture. It is also the endeavour of the Government to provide welfare measures and to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

[Translation]

Deaths due to Poverty and Dowry

*331. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of murders and suicides due to poverty and dowry demand after marriage involving the husband and his family members and friends which occurred during each of the last three years and till-date, State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of cases convicted with death sentence, life imprisonment, imprisonment for 10 years or more than 7 years or more; and

(c) the steps being taken to curb such incidents of social evil?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Available information in regard to the number of women who committed suicide due to dowry disputes and poverty as also information regarding dowry deaths during 1995-96 to 1998 is given in the enclosed Statement. Relation-wise break-up of persons causing dowry deaths and quantum of punishment awarded to accused persons by courts is not maintained at the Central level. However, the number of cases convicted in dowry related cases during the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 was 574, 797 and 1003 respectively.

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes, including crimes against women, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been writing to the State Governments, from time to time, stressing upon them the need to take preventive and punitive measures in connection with crimes against women. The measures suggested by the Central Government include, *inter alia*, appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers, setting up of women police stations, wider recruitment of women police officers, creation of women police cells in police stations, gender sensitisation training to police personnel, etc. The Central Government has also been advising the State Governments about the need to ensure implementation of the existing laws, both in letter and spirit, and to bring about an awareness in general public about the laws/instructions regarding anti-dowry and other connected matters. Further, the Central Government has been modifying and amending the existing laws with a view to making them more stringent. The Central Government is now inter-acting with the State Governments on the question of providing death penalty for rapists.

Statement

Suicides committed due to Dowry Dispute & Poverty and Cases of Dowry Death during 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998

Sl. No.	States/U.Ts.	1995			1996			1997			1998		
		Suicide		Dowry Deaths	Suicide		Dowry Deaths	Suicide		Dowry Deaths	Suicide		Dowry Deaths. Upto Oct., 98
		D.Dis.	Poverty		D. Dis.	Poverty		D.Dis.	Poverty		D.Dis.	poverty	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	315	436	362	162	561	411	271	877	551	NA	NA	411
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	NA	NA	1
3.	Assam	9	41	44	12	28	28	9	71	16	NA	NA	14
4.	Bihar	30	6	383	50	5	478	NA	NA	495	NA	NA	0
5.	Goa	3	2	2	3	7	1	3	1	3	NA	NA	1
6.	Gujarat	58	122	61	69	117	105	73	116	81	NA	NA	66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	Haryana	39	48	218	22	22	223	42	25	212	NA	NA	219
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16	1	6	2	2	6	3	3	6	NA	NA	9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	0	5	12	0	0	19	0	0	NA	NA	0
10.	Karnataka	133	541	202	33	482	182	102	530	237	NA	NA	187
11.	Kerala	10	13	21	14	392	25	37	14	21	NA	NA	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	321	120	417	421	106	577	467	143	469	NA	NA	351
13.	Maharashtra	546	263	471	509	428	443	377	380	384	NA	NA	323
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
15.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	NA	NA	0
18.	Orissa	144	18	196	96	24	178	76	17	124	NA	NA	149
19.	Punjab	13	24	130	35	37	180	48	17	175	NA	NA	164
20.	Rajasthan	84	38	369	98	73	349	78	47	404	NA	NA	367
21.	Sikkim	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	NA	NA	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	140	453	94	125	637	112	91	740	104	NA	NA	107
23.	Tripura	7	0	7	19	5	19	0	19	8	NA	NA	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	367	99	1850	372	66	1983	475	111	1811	NA	NA	1368
25.	West Bengal	91	101	89	80	49	77	254	39	263	NA	NA	172
Total States		2335	2331	4927	2134	3041	5378	2425	3154	5365	NA	NA	3934
26.	A&N Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	NA	NA	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	3	0	2	4	0	3	NA	NA	4
28.	D&N Haveli	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	NA	NA	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
30.	Delhi	53	30	160	41	53	132	34	55	164	NA	NA	106
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	3	0	5	1	0	3	2	NA	NA	1
Total (UTs)		53	31	165	46	58	135	39	60	171	NA	NA	111
Total State/UTs		2388	2362	5092	2180	3099	5513	2464	3214	5536	NA	NA	4045

D.Dis. Stand for Dowry Dispute.

[English]

Oral Contraceptive Pills

*332. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the women in the country lack knowledge about contraceptive methods;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared by the Government to bring awareness among women about the use of contraceptive methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As ascertained in National Family Health Survey 1992-93, 96% of currently married women are aware of at least one method of contraceptive, 95% of women know about sterilisation and 58% to 66% women know about temporary methods.

(c) In addition to counselling by the health functionaries, a large Information, Education & Communication (IEC) efforts is being made through the electronic media, print media, through NGO's and through Zilla Saksharatha Samithies. Agencies of Ministry of