

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1926

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011

DOWRY DEATHS

Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Dushyant;Singh Shri Yashvir;Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of dowry deaths are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of such cases registered during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the total number of accused persons arrested and the action taken against them during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has convened any meeting with the State Governments to discuss the measures to control such crime against women;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of instructions issued to the State Governments in this regard;
- (f) whether any stringent steps are being taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future including implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Union Government to appoint women personnel in every police station to deal with the cases related to domestic violence and dowry deaths?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (c): A total of 8093, 8172 and 8383 cases of dowry deaths (Section 304B IPC) were registered during 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively. The State/UT-wise details of cases registered, persons arrested and convicted under dowry death (Section 304B IPC) during 2007-2009 are enclosed at Annexure.

(d) to (h): As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects under the Constitution, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women, lies with the State Governments. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime against women, including crime of dowry death, and has enacted important legislations such as Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 to provide protection to women. Government of India has been advising all the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to give more focused attention to the administration of criminal justice system with emphasis on prevention and control of crime against women. In this regard, a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 (available at website mha.nic.in) has been sent to all States/UT Governments wherein States have been advised to make comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women, and to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing the responsiveness of the law and order machinery. The comprehensive advisory has enumerated various steps for improving effectiveness of the machinery in tackling atrocities against women including dowry deaths (Point xxv and xxvi of the advisory). Majority of the States/ UTs have established 'Women Cells'. Some States/UTs have also set up 'All Women Police stations' at district level and 'Mahila desk' at Police Station level.