

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4931
ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011
DOWRY DEATHS
Semmalai Shri S.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of dowry death cases pending in the High Courts of various States in the country; and
- (b) the other effective steps besides the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 taken by her Ministry to prevent dowry deaths?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not collect data on pending cases in the High Courts. It collects data on cases pending trial in the lower courts. As per NCRB data, total of 25250, 26009 & 27148 cases are pending trial under Section 304-B IPC (Dowry Death) in the years 2007, 2008 & 2009 respectively.

(b): Dowry deaths are covered under Section 304B of IPC. As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution. As such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Central Government attaches importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against women and has been advising the State Governments from time to time depending upon the need regarding the steps that need to be taken to afford a greater measure of protection to the women and, in particular, to prevent incidence of crimes against them. These advisories, inter-alia, emphasize gender sensitization of the police personnel, minimizing delays in investigations of crime against women and improving the quality of investigation and setting up 'Crime against Women Cells' in districts where these do not exist. States/ UT Administrations have also been advised that Dowry related cases must be adjudicated expeditiously to avoid further harassment of the women and also to develop a community monitoring system to check cases of violence, abuse and exploitation.