

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2857

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012

KHAP PANCHAYATS

Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Punia Shri P.L. ;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Ministry has sent notices to the prevailing khap panchayats in the various States for imposition of diktats on the people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the details regarding measures being taken to control the influence of such panchayats on passing diktats such as early age for marriage of girls and dress codes for women?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (c): No, Madam. However, Supreme Court in a judgment on 19th April, 2012 has termed the Khap Panchayats illegal and has directed the State Governments to take strong measures to prevent any atrocious acts by the Khap Panchayats.

As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is deeply concerned with the welfare of women and through various schemes and advisories to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, augments the efforts of the States /UTs.

Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a detailed advisory on crime against women dated 4th Sept., 2009, to all the State Union Territory Governments wherein the States have been directed to conduct a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of its law and order machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women and to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing its responsiveness to such violence. Para XXX of the advisory specifically advises to take Special steps should also be taken to curb the 'Violation of Women's Rights by so called Honour Killings, to prevent forced marriage in some northern States, and other forms of Violence'.