

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2010

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

HONOUR KILLINGS

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Ramshankar Dr. ;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether honour killings and harassment of married couples are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such cases reported along with the accused arrested and the action taken against the guilty persons during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has constituted any Committee/Group of Ministers (GoMs) to examine the issue relating to honour killings;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by such Committee/GoM and the steps taken by the Government to implement such recommendations;
- (e) whether the Ministry has received recommendations from the Law Commission in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and (g) the other measures taken by the Government to check such cases in future and to identify the reasons behind such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): As per information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), data regarding honour killings is not maintained centrally.

(c) to (f): A Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted in 20.07.2010 to look into the issue of Honour Killing. However, the GoM after several meetings was unable to reach any consensus due to non-uniformity of opinion among State Governments. The GoM has been dissolved.

The Law Commission has submitted its 242nd Report on "Prevention of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliance (in the name of Honour and Tradition): A suggested Legal Framework" to the Ministry of Law and Justice in which it has advocated for a standalone legislation to curb the social evil of the caste councils/Panchayats interfering with the endangering the life and liberty of young persons marrying partners belonging to the same gotra or to a different caste/religion. The aforesaid has been circulated to all concerned by Ministry of Law and Justice to elicit views and suggestions.

(g): As per Seventh Scheduled, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the constitution, and as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women and children, lies with the State Governments and Union territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against women and children.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a detailed advisory on Crime against Women dated 4th September, 2009 to all State Governments/UTs, wherein through Para XXX it has specifically advised the States/UTs to take Special steps to curb the 'Violation of Women's Rights by so called Honour Killings and to prevent forced marriage in some northern States, and other forms of Violence'.

The Supreme Court has delivered several judgments condemning Khap Panchayats and Honour Killings. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also circulated the Judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court to all the State Govts./UT Administrations for necessary and appropriate action The Judgments are:

- (i) Arumugam Several versus State of Tamil Nadu (Criminal Appeal No.958 of 20011) dated 19th April 2011.
- (ii) Criminal Appeal No. 1117 of 2011 @ SLP (Crl) No. 1208 of 2011 dated 9th May 2011 in the cases of Bhagwan Dass Vs State (NCT) of Delhi.
- (iii) Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) 208 of 2004 in Lata Singh's (supra).