

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5152
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2015
EVILS OF SATI AND WITCHCRAFT
Birla Shri Om

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

- (a) whether the practice of witchcraft and sati are still prevalent in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases reported/come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. Government has taken note of the practice of witchcraft in various parts of the country. As per the provisional data of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the State/UT wise details of total number of cases registered under murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder under the motive/cause of witchcraft during the last three years is annexed. No case has been reported under the Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1987 in last three years.

(c): As per the seventh schedule, "police" and "public order" are the State subjects under the Constitution and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes including sati and witch-hunting, lies with the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. National Commission for Women (NCW) conducts seminars and workshops from time to time to create awareness on the issue and discourage such practices. Harassment/torture/murder etc. which are associated with the witchcraft are already punishable crimes under Indian Penal Code (IPC).