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Title: Need to enact the Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2008 for according recognition to the Sikh way of marriage.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (GURDASPUR): There are fervent appeals from various quarters both from India as well as from abroad on the issue of recognition to be given to the Sikh way of marriage by a statutory enactment. This has been the long pending demand of the Sikh Community who has been fighting for an amendment to the Anand Marriage Act passed by the Britishers in 1909. Respecting the Sikh religious sentiments, there was a proposal to amend the Special Marriage Act to make a provision for the registration of marriages performed according to the Anand Marriage Act of 1909 to give recognition to the Sikh way of marriage known as Anand Karaj.

Way back in 2008, though the Ministry of Law and Justice has prepared a Draft Bill in this respect known as The Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and sought the views and comments from the general public, but till date it has not been made a statute.

I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice to give priority to this long pending demand of the Sikh Community and get the necessary legislation enacted in this very Budget Session of the Parliament.