

#### Human rights violations by Caste Panchayats

\*479. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the actions of caste panchayats in various parts of the country;
- (b) whether human rights violations are perpetrated by these caste panchayats;
- (c) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the victims; and
- (e) the details of measures taken to spread public awareness against such customs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The actions of the caste panchayats are not in consonance with the laws in India.

(c) No specific information regarding human rights violations perpetrated by caste panchayats is maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) or the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

(d) and (e) Government of India is committed to prevent and combat atrocities/crime against all vulnerable sections of the society, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects. As such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, including crime/atrocities against the vulnerable sections of the society, lies with the State Governments/UTs. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/UT Administrations through various schemes, by issuing time to time advisories to State Governments and UT Administrations, augmenting the capacities of law enforcement agencies, etc.

#### Sick NTC mills in A.P.

\*480. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: