

- (a) whether Government has any plan to deal with the menace of honour killings;
  - (b) whether it is a fact that the incidents of honour killings have caste dimension;
  - (c) whether Government thinks it appropriate to enact separate legislation for the purpose;
- and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that Government is thinking to amend Hindu Marriage Act instead of passing separate legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d): The expression 'honour killing/crime' has not been defined in any of the laws in force till date. However, by 'honour killing/crime', it is generally understood that a person who is perceived to have violated certain codes of the community or clan or family, is punished by the clan or community or family members, generally by killing him/her. Many instances of alleged honour killings have been reported wherein if a boy or girl marries a boy or girl of the same gotra or with a person of a caste which is not accepted by the community to which the boy or girl belong. 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 crime of honour killing and other forms of violence. Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 to all State Governments/UT Administrations wherein States have been advised, *inter alia*, to make comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women and to take appropriate measures to curb the violation of women's rights by so called 'Honour Killings'. Government is also actively considering a proposal to amend the Indian Penal Code or to enact a separate law in order to tackle the crime of honour killings. There is no proposal to amend the Hindu Marriage Act.

#### Framing of rules on FTA

†\*351. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the countries with which India has entered into free trade agreement;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government proposes to enter into Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with some other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan in this regard and the identified priority sectors;

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of the effects of these FTA on domestic industries and farmers;

(e) whether Government has framed rules on FTA to maintain uninhibited trade with other countries;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) if not, by when such rules are likely to be framed and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) India has signed Free Trade Agreements/Preferential Trade Agreements with the following countries:

Sl.No.	Name of Agreement	Partner Country(ies)
1	2	3
1	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	Bangladesh, China, Lao PDR, South Korea, Sri Lanka
2	Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)	44 developing countries/least developed countries
3	India-Sri Lanka FTA	Sri Lanka
4	India-Afghanistan PTA	Afghanistan
5	India-Thailand Early Harvest Scheme	Thailand
6	South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
7	India-MERCOSUR PTA	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay
8	India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	Singapore
9	India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement	Chile

1	2	3
10	India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit	Bhutan
11	India-Nepal Treaty of Trade	Nepal
12	India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	South Korea
13	India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)/ Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)/ Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements (CECAs)/ Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs)/ Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreements (BTIAs) with the following countries/group of countries:

Sl.No.	Partner Countries/ Groups	Priority Areas	Status/Action Plan
1	2	3	4
1	European Union	Goods, services and investments	Negotiations were launched on 28th June, 2007 in the areas of Goods, Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, Competition, IPR & GIs. Etc. Nine rounds of negotiations have been held so far. Intercessional meeting on Services, Investment and IPR was held during May 24-26, 2010.
2	Malaysia	Services and investments	Negotiations are being carried out simultaneously towards Agreements on Trade in

1	2	3	4
			Goods, Trade in Services, Investment and other areas of economic cooperation as a single undertaking. Four rounds of negotiations have been held so far.
3	Thailand	Goods, services and investments	Negotiations are continuing.
4	ASEAN	Services and Investments	Negotiations on Trade in Services and Investment are under way. Six meetings of Negotiating Groups have been held so far.
5	Japan	Goods, services and investments	Negotiations were launched in December, 2006 in the areas of Goods, Services, Investment, Intellectual Property Rights, SPS/ TBT. 13 rounds of negotiations held so far. Negotiations are still continuing.
6	New Zealand	Goods, services and investments	Two rounds of negotiations have been held so far.
7	Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	Goods, services and investments	2nd round of negotiations was held in September, 2008.
8	European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	Services and investments	Seven rounds of negotiations have been held so far.
9	Southern African Customs Union (SACU)	Goods	4 rounds of negotiations have been held so far.
10	BIMSTEC	Goods, services and investments	Text of the Agreement on Trade in Goods has been finalised. Negotiations continue to finalise the concessions list.

1	2	3	4
11	Mauritius	Services and investments	10 rounds of negotiations have been completed.
12	Sri Lanka	Services and investments	Already concluded but yet to be signed
13	Israel	Goods, services and investments	Negotiations yet to begin
14.	Indian MERCOSUR PTA	The PTA expansion by widening product coverage and deepening preferences.	
15.	India-Chile PTA	The PTA expansion by widening product coverage and deepening preferences.  First meeting for expansion of the India-Chile PTA took place in June, 2010.	
16.	India-Singapore CECA	Second review of India- Singapore CECA was launched on May 11,2010.	

FTAs / PTAs seek to achieve improved market access in a FTA partner country on all products except for certain products which are considered sensitive from the domestic industry and agriculture sector point of view. Such sensitive products are kept in the Negative List / Exclusion List.

(d) Before entering into negotiations with its trading partners, studies are undertaken internally, as well as through the Joint Study Group (JSG) to study the feasibility of the proposed FTAs, including their impact on the domestic industry and agriculture sector. Consultations are also held with the domestic stakeholders including the Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Industry Associations as well as the Administrative Ministries and Departments. In order to protect the interest of the domestic industry and agriculture sector, these agreements provide for maintaining sensitive/negative lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted under the FTA. In addition, in case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to the measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards.

(e) to (g) FTAs / PTAs are negotiated to further India's bilateral trade with selected partner countries. Trade with countries other than the FTA partner countries is regulated by the rules framed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of which India is a founding member.