

#### **Dissolution of District Panchayats in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

345. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has recommended the dissolution of the District Panchayats in the Union Territory; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has recommended the dissolution of the District Panchayats in the Union Territory. However, at present, this Ministry is not considering any proposal to dissolve the District Panchayats in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### **Supreme Court's notice on honour killings**

346. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the growing incidents of honour killings in the country, the Supreme Court has issued notices to the Central Government and nine State Governments, asking them to furnish their stand on the issue and to explain why they have not come out with a more stringent law to curb the growing menace;

(b) the stand of Government regarding honour killings;

(c) whether Government proposes to enact a new law to curb such killings; and

(d) whether, in the light of the recent honour killings, Government has initiated any inquiry into the role of caste Panchayats across the nation?

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

(b) to (c) 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