

Some caste Panchayats are known to abate these killings/crimes as reported in the media as some of the villagers give precedence to the judgements of a caste Panchayats rather than that delivered by the Courts of law.

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 States/UT Governments wherein States/UTs have been advised, *inter alia*, to take 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' and to prevent forced marriage in some States.

Government is also considering the necessity to amend the existing law or otherwise to enact separate law in order to tackle honour killings.

Since 'honour killing' is not a crime classified separately under the Indian laws, no data is collected separately regarding this crime by the National Crime Records Bureau. Crimes are dealt with under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and are investigated and prosecuted as offences under the IPC/Cr.P.C. Therefore no separate figures of arrests are available.

Law to Check honour killings

340. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering bringing a law to check "honour killings" in India;
- (b) if so, the details of changes being proposed in Indian Penal Code (CrPC), Indian Evidence Act and Special Marriage Act;
- (c) how many cases of "honour killings" have been reported in the country, Statewise, so far; and
- (d) the action taken against the culprits in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Instances of honour killings have been reported in the media. As honour killing is not classified as a separate crime it is treated as murder and, information in this regard is not maintained separately by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Dowry Deaths

341. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of 'dowry deaths' reported in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the number of persons arrested and action taken against them in such cases; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to prevent such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) A total of 7618, 8093 and 8172 cases of dowry death (Section 304B IPC) were registered during 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively. The State/UT-wise details of cases registered, persons arrested and convicted under dowry death (Section 304B IPC) during / 2006-2008 are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime against women, including crime of dowry death, and has enacted important legislations such as Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 to provide protection and legal remedies to women. As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects under the Constitution, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women, lies with the State Governments. Government of India has been advising all the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to give more focused attention to the administration of criminal justice system with emphasis on prevention and control of crime against women. In this regard, a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 (*available at website mha.nic.in*) has been sent to all States/UT Governments wherein States have been advised to take comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women, and to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing the responsiveness of the law enforcement machinery. The comprehensive advisory has enumerated various steps for improving effectiveness of the machinery in tackling atrocities against women including dowry deaths (Point xxv and xxvi of the advisory).