

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 7th September, 2011/16 Bhadra, 1933 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

RE. BOMB BLAST OUTSIDE DELHI HIGH COURT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we have just heard a very disturbing piece of news about the bomb blast outside the Delhi High Court. There are reports of some casualties. This is something which is to be condemned. As soon as facts are available, we would request the Government to share them with the House. I understand that this would be convenient at 2 O'clock. Till then we are adjourned. Thank you.

The House then adjourned at one minute past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Formation of GTA like authorities in Telengana, Vidarbha and Laddakh

*481. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given clearance to the Gorkhaland Territory Authority (GTA) recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to form such authorities in the case of Telengana, Vidarbha and Laddakh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) on 18.07.2011 for establishing an autonomous self-governing body called Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) to administer the region so that the socio-economic, infrastructural, educational, cultural

and linguistic development is expedited, thereby achieving all round development of the region. Alongwith the formation of GTA to be constituted by an Act of the legislature, the DGHC Act, 1988 will be repealed by the State Government.

(c) There is no proposal to form GTA like authorities for Telengana and Vidarbha and Laddakh. For Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, a separate Development Board has been constituted in 1994 and has been functioning as per Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India. With regard to backward areas of Andhra Pradesh including Telangana, adequate safeguards have been included in Article 371 D of the Constitution to ensure equitable opportunities in matters of public employment and in the matter of education. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council was constituted following a tripartite agreement signed on 29.10.1989 between the Government of India, Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the representatives of the Ladakh Buddhist Association. The Council has been delegated with the responsibility for plan formulation, implementation and monitoring.

People killed due to honour killing

*482. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has information on the number of persons killed while implementing the Khap's order of honour killing; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to implement the order of the Supreme Court for punishing the practice of honour killing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Instances of alleged honour killings have been reported. As honour killing is not classified as a separate crime and it is treated as murder, information in this regard is not maintained separately by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

(b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, the primary responsibility for preventing and combating the crime of honour killing lies with the State Governments. Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* letter No.24013/34/2011-SC/ST-W dated 20th April, 2011 directed the State Governments to ensure strict compliance of Supreme Court directions.

Ministry of Home Affairs has also sent a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 to all States/UT Governments wherein States have been directed, *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 Northern States". A Group of Ministers (GoM)