

Separate law for honour killing

717. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a UN agency has recently advocated for a separate law for honour killing in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs has not received any communication from any UN agency advocating separate law for Honour Killing in India.

(c) As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women and children, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against women and children. Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a detailed advisory on Crime against Women dated 4th September, 2009 to all State Governments/UTs, wherein through Para XXX it has specifically advised the States/UTs to take special steps to curb the 'Violation of Women's Rights by so called Honour Killings and to prevent forced marriage in some northern States, and other forms of violence'.

Supreme Court has delivered several judgments condemning Khap Panchayats and Honour Killings. Ministry of Home Affairs has circulated these judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court to all the State Governments/UT Administrations for necessary and appropriate action. The judgements are:

- (i) Arumugam Servai *versus* State of Tamil Nadu (Criminal Appeal No. 958 of 2011) dated 19th April, 2011.
- (ii) Criminal Appeal No. 1117 of 2011 @ SLP (CrI) No. 1208 of 2011 dated 9th May, 2011 in the case of Bhagwan Dass Vs State (NCT) of Delhi
- (iii) Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) 208 of 2004 in Lata Singh's case (*supra*)

As per input provided by the Department of Legal Affairs, Law Commission of India is examining the matter relating to 'honour killing'. A consultation paper titled "Unlawful Interference of Caste Panchayats etc. with marriages in the name of Honour: A suggested Legislative Framework" (including a proposed Bill on the subject) has been prepared by Law Commission of India and has been uploaded on its website on January, 2012 and has also circulated to all concerned to elicit views and suggestions.

Crop loss due to excess rains and cyclone Phailin

718. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment about the crops lost due to excess rains during the recent monsoon and due to cyclone Phailin fury in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the State and UT-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the State and UT-wise details of relief and other measures extended by Government to the affected farmers and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As per the assessment of the State Government of Odisha, over 11 lakh hectares of cropped areas were damaged. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh around 12.83 lakh hectares of cropped areas were reported to be damaged due to cyclone 'Phailin' and subsequent floods.

The State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary rescue and relief measures in the wake of natural disasters. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by extending financial assistance and logistic support, wherever necessary. For this purpose, a State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State. Additional expenditure, if any, incurred over and above or on other than approved items/norms, is required to be met by the States from their own resources and not from SDRF/NDRF.

The concerned State Governments are required to undertake necessary relief operations in the cyclone 'Phailin' affected areas out of the funds readily available in the corpus of the SDRF. Under the guidelines for expenditure from SDRF/NDRF, the assistance to the affected farmers is admissible for Agriculture Input Subsidy for damage caused to crops according to the magnitude of the event. In addition to the assistance