

Special law to curb honour killings

*316. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the existing criminal law lacks direct application to illegal acts of honour killings;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to introduce special law which will combat honour killings and protect the hapless young couples and their families who are the victims of this social evil;

(c) whether Government proposes to define honour killing as a specific offence in the Indian Penal Code, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check moral vigilantism by the caste councils or khap panchayats acting as parallel law agencies instrumental in such honour killings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) To curb the incidents of honour killing it was decided to bring forth a Bill namely the "Indian Penal Code and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2010". The Bill, inter alia contained the proposal for amendment in Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954. However, The Law Commission in 242nd Report titled as "Prevention of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances (In the name of Honour and Tradition) recommended for bringing a standalone legislation namely "The Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliance Bill" instead of amending the Indian Penal Code, 1860. As personal laws, including matrimonial laws, are under the administrative control of the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice "The Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliance Bill" is now being processed by them. They have circulated the Bill to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for their comments/views as the subject matter of the Bill falls in List III- Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Package to revive textile sector

*317. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating a comprehensive package to overcome the crisis prevailing in the textile sector due to the global economic slowdown, if so, the details thereof;