

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 618
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2016

PRACTICE OF WITCH CRAFT

618. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the practice to label women as witches and carrying on atrocities against them are still prevalent in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to prevent such practice?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Government has taken note of the practice of witchcraft in various parts of the country. As per the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the State/UT wise details of total number of cases registered under murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder under the motive/cause of witchcraft during the last three years is annexed.

(c) As per the seventh schedule, "police" and "public order" are the State subjects under the Constitution and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes including sati and witch-hunting, lies with the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. National Commission for Women (NCW) conducts seminars and workshops from time to time to create awareness on the issue and discourage such practices. Harassment/torture/murder etc. which are associated with the witchcraft are already punishable crimes under Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 618 for 18.11.2016 by Shri Tathagata Satpathy regarding Prevention of Witchcraft.

Number of cases of Murder and Culprable Homicide (C.H.) not amounting to Murder under the motive/cause of Witchcraft during the last three years.

Sl. No.	States/UTS	Murder (section 302 IPC)			Culprable homicide not amounting to murder (Section 304 IPC)		
		2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	2	1	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	6	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	0	6	2	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	7	16	10	0	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	4	10	13	0	0	0
8	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Jharkhand	54	47	32	1	0	0
12	Karnataka	0	0	3	0	0	0
13	Kerala	0	0	0	0	1	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	11	24	20	0	0	0
15	Maharashtra	10	5	5	0	0	0
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	8	1	0	0	1	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0	0
20	Odisha	24	32	26	0	0	0
21	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Rajasthan	1	1	1	0	0	0
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	16	0	0	0	0	0
25	Telangana	--	8	14	0	0	0
26	Tripura	1	0	1	0	0	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	0	3	3	0	2	0
28	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	West Bengal	0	1	2	0	0	0
30	A & N Islands	0	0	2	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	160	156	135	1	4	1

