

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5086**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH MARCH, 2026/ CHAITRA 3, 1948 (SAKA)

DOWRY DEATHS

5086. DR. BYREDDY SHABARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered under Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code (dowry death) and the conviction rate in such cases during the last five years, year and State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government has identified challenges such as evidentiary gaps, investigation delays, or hostile witnesses affecting convictions;

(c) the number of reported cases of suspicious or unnatural deaths of married women occurring after seven years of marriage during the last five years, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government is aware that Section 304B IPC applies only to deaths within seven years of marriage;

(e) whether any proposal exists to review or extend this time limit, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government proposes to introduce specialised police units, standardised investigation protocols, or fast-track mechanisms for effective investigation and trial of such cases?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a) to (f): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles statistical data on crimes as reported to it by the States/UTs and publishes the same in its annual publication “Crime in India”. The latest published report pertains to the year 2023. The State/UT wise details of cases registered, cases in which trials completed, cases convicted and conviction rate under Dowry Death [Section 304B of Indian Penal Code (now Section 80 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita)] during the years 2019 to 2023 are at Annexure.

‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against women rests with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The State Governments/ UT Administrations are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. The Government of India supports and supplements the efforts of the State Governments and UT Administrations to effectively tackle the crime against women and girls.

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 have adequate provisions to tackle the menace of Dowry. Section 80 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (formerly Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code) applies specifically to cases of dowry death occurring within seven years of marriage while other provisions of law such as Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (formerly Section 498A IPC) continue to provide protection against cruelty and harassment for dowry demands irrespective of the duration of marriage. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 prohibits and penalizes giving or taking of dowry so as to safeguard women against dowry harassment.

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 provides for speedy investigation and trial of criminal cases including Dowry related cases.

There is no such proposal to review or extend the time limit given under Section 80 of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Ministry of Home Affairs has advised all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, to take the following measures:

- i. Dowry related cases must be adjudicated expeditiously to avoid further harassment of the women.**
- ii. Appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of the Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.**

Further, Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued advisories to all States/UTs from time to time advising them to effectively deal with crimes against women inter-alia proper enforcement of law and convictions in women related crimes. These Advisories are available at www.mha.gov.in.

Further, Bureau of Police Research & Development, conducts training programmes for personnel of criminal justice system including Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers etc. to deal with crime against women effectively and sensitively.

State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases in which Trials Completed (CTC), Cases Convicted (CON) and Conviction Rate (CVR) under Dowry Death under Crimes against Women Dowry Deaths during 2019-2021

SL	State/UT	2019				2020				2021			
		CR	CTC	CON	CVR	CR	CTC	CON	CVR	CR	CTC	CON	CVR
1	Andhra Pradesh	112	151	13	8.6	111	48	6	12.5	108	65	9	13.8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
3	Assam	156	47	4	8.5	148	22	2	9.1	198	20	1	5.0
4	Bihar	1120	414	129	31.2	1046	92	58	63.0	1000	179	128	71.5
5	Chhattisgarh	76	61	29	47.5	71	26	8	30.8	65	32	11	34.4
6	Goa	1	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	1	0	0.0
7	Gujarat	9	2	0	0.0	6	0	0	-	11	18	1	5.6
8	Haryana	248	149	46	30.9	251	27	6	22.2	275	67	16	23.9
9	Himachal Pradesh	4	0	0	-	1	0	0	-	2	1	0	0.0
10	Jharkhand	299	113	55	48.7	275	79	37	46.8	281	81	47	58.0
11	Karnataka	194	118	9	7.6	176	93	7	7.5	158	56	14	25.0
12	Kerala	8	10	1	10.0	6	64	61	95.3	9	2	0	0.0
13	Madhya Pradesh	550	564	216	38.3	608	211	68	32.2	522	380	136	35.8
14	Maharashtra	196	145	10	6.9	197	59	10	16.9	172	71	8	11.3
15	Manipur	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	-	2	0	0	-
16	Meghalaya	3	0	0	-	1	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
19	Odisha	342	33	0	0.0	320	53	8	15.1	293	28	5	17.9
20	Punjab	69	57	19	33.3	63	14	6	42.9	69	26	11	42.3
21	Rajasthan	452	180	85	47.2	479	134	65	48.5	452	203	98	48.3
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
23	Tamil Nadu	28	58	9	15.5	40	31	10	32.3	27	44	12	27.3
24	Telangana	163	105	18	17.1	158	121	40	33.1	175	85	7	8.2
25	Tripura	38	25	2	8.0	23	1	0	0.0	22	4	3	75.0
26	Uttar Pradesh	2410	1068	557	52.2	2274	922	553	60.0	2222	753	439	58.3
27	Uttarakhand	57	18	11	61.1	65	8	1	12.5	72	17	6	35.3
28	West Bengal	470	199	47	23.6	522	66	1	1.5	454	108	5	4.6
	TOTAL STATE(S)	7006	3517	1260	35.8	6843	2071	947	45.7	6589	2241	957	42.7
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	-
30	Chandigarh	6	2	2	100.0	1	1	1	100.0	4	2	1	50.0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	5	0	0	-	1	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
32	Delhi	116	32	18	56.3	110	8	8	100.0	141	9	6	66.7
33	Jammu & Kashmir	8	3	0	0.0	9	3	0	0.0	16	0	0	-
34	Ladakh	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	-	2	0	0	-
	TOTAL UT(S)	135	37	20	54.1	123	12	9	75.0	164	11	7	63.6
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	7141	3554	1280	36.0	6966	2083	956	45.9	6753	2252	964	42.8

Source: Crime in India

Note = Conviction Rate = (Cases Convicted) / (Cases in which Trials Completed) X 100

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Annexure

State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases in which Trials Completed (CTC), Cases Convicted (CON) and Conviction Rate (CVR) under Dowry Death under Crimes against Women Dowry Deaths during 2022-2023

SL	State/UT	2022				2023			
		CR	CTC	CON	CVR	CR	CTC	CON	CVR
1	Andhra Pradesh	100	93	8	8.6	95	148	17	11.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	-
3	Assam	175	65	7	10.8	101	77	7	9.1
4	Bihar	1057	249	89	35.7	1143	210	73	34.8
5	Chhattisgarh	57	53	27	50.9	46	64	13	20.3
6	Goa	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	-
7	Gujarat	10	9	0	0.0	12	3	0	0.0
8	Haryana	234	140	20	14.3	207	194	21	10.8
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	-	0	1	0	0.0
10	Jharkhand	208	238	61	25.6	218	331	92	27.8
11	Karnataka	165	173	1	0.6	156	238	6	2.5
12	Kerala	11	6	1	16.7	8	3	0	0.0
13	Madhya Pradesh	518	697	185	26.5	468	710	193	27.2
14	Maharashtra	180	143	7	4.9	170	157	7	4.5
15	Manipur	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	-
16	Meghalaya	1	1	0	0.0	0	1	1	100.0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
19	Odisha	263	177	19	10.7	231	141	18	12.8
20	Punjab	71	26	4	15.4	44	48	6	12.5
21	Rajasthan	451	167	66	39.5	428	132	60	45.5
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
23	Tamil Nadu	29	37	6	16.2	11	33	8	24.2
24	Telangana	137	140	24	17.1	145	180	26	14.4
25	Tripura	25	4	1	25.0	21	14	5	35.7
26	Uttar Pradesh	2138	1134	686	60.5	2122	1358	887	65.3
27	Uttarakhand	70	24	3	12.5	48	57	25	43.9
28	West Bengal	406	100	14	14.0	350	127	8	6.3
	TOTAL STATE(S)	6307	3676	1229	33.4	6027	4227	1473	34.8
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	-	0	1	0	0.0
30	Chandigarh	1	1	1	100.0	4	1	0	0.0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	1	0	0	-	0	3	1	33.3
32	Delhi	131	9	1	11.1	115	43	26	60.5
33	Jammu & Kashmir	9	3	0	0.0	9	9	1	11.1
34	Ladakh	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
36	Puducherry	1	0	0	-	1	0	0	-
	TOTAL UT(S)	143	13	2	15.4	129	57	28	49.1
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	6450	3689	1231	33.4	6156	4284	1501	35.0

Source: Crime in India

Note = Conviction Rate = (Cases Convicted) / (Cases in which Trials Completed) X 100