

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1764  
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2004  
KILLING OF WOMEN  
Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of women killed during each of the last four years after branding them as witches; and  
(b) the steps taken by the Government to do away with the said evil practice?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATIKANTI SINGH)

(a) The National Crime Records Bureau under Ministry of Home Affairs has furnished information maintained by it relating to incidence of murder due to witchcraft, according to which the number of murders during 2000 to 2003 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of cases
1.	2000	126
2.	2001	126
3.	2002	151
4.	2003	129#

#figure for 2003 is provisional.

(b) Combating this evil practice is mainly an aspect of maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime, which is the responsibility of the States. Some of the States, namely Bihar and Jharkhand, where this practice has been prevalent have adopted their own laws to deal with it. The State of Chhattisgarh which has not adopted any special law in this regard is of the view that the menace has to be dealt with through awareness generation and spread of education.