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6,000 dowry deaths each in three years

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New Delhi: Women and child development minister Renuka Chowdhury informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday that over 6,000 dowry deaths each had been registered for three consecutive years (2004-06) in the country.

According to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of dowry deaths reported in 2004 was 7,026. The figure came down to 6,787 in 2005 before increasing to 7,618 in 2006.

These statistics did not fully reflect the suffering of women as cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act were excluded from it. The minister, in a written reply, told the House the cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act were 3,592 in 2004, 3,204 in 2005 and 4,504 in 2006.

As reported earlier by TOI, Chowdhury informed the House that the government was considering a proposal to make dowry laws more stringent. "The National Commission for Women has made certain recommendations for the amendment of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, and section 304B IPC (dowry death)

and they are being examined by the ministry," the minister said.

On abuse of the dowry law, Chowdhury said the government had no information that there was large-scale misuse of the law. However, she said the NCRB data for 2004-06 showed that the number of cases registered under section 304(B) (dowry death)



According to NCRB data placed before the Rajya Sabha, the number of dowry deaths reported in 2004 was 7,026. The figure came down to 6,787 in 2005 before increasing to 7,618 in 2006

was 21,431 while 974 of these were found to be false on account of mistake of facts or law. Under section 498(A), which deals with cruelty by husband or his relatives, 1,79,568 cases were registered of which 19,013 were found to be false. Under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 11,300 cases were registered of which 615 were found to be untrue.

According to NCRB data placed before the House, the number of cases registered under crime

against women under the IPC and special laws was 154,333 in 2004, 155,553 in 2005 and 164,765 in 2006. The minister also informed the House that in view of growing incidents of eve-teasing, the NCW had forwarded certain suggestions for amendment to the laws. The recommendations included new provision regarding unlawful sexual contact and amendment to section 509 of the IPO