

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 08.05.2000**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**MASS SUICIDE BY FOUR SISTERS IN BHILAI .**

4499

SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that four real sisters had committed mass suicide in steel making city Bhilai because their parents had performed inter-caste marriage and these four sisters were obsessed with social frustration due to not getting married and society not accepted them;

(b) whether there is any scheme regarding creating social awareness and promoting inter- caste marriage so that this is socially recognized; and

(c) whether any grant is given to recognized organizations for the said work?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) It is a fact that four sisters namely Kesharbai, Meenabai, Hemlatabai and Minakshibai committed suicide on 7.4.2000 at Kohaka Road, Bhilai, Distt. Durg, Madhya Pradesh. Although the parents had contracted inter-caste marriage, it is not true that they committed suicide on account of their parents having done so and that they were obsessed with social frustration.

(b)&(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of implementation of Protection of Civil rights Act, 1995 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities ) Act, 1989, Central assistance is released to the State Governments (50:50) and Union Territory Administrations (100%) to support measures undertaken by them which inter-alia include incentive to inter-caste married couples. During 1999-2000, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 732.96 lakhs released to Government of Madhya Pradesh included assistance for various measures, such as Incentive to Inter-Caste Married couples, Gram Panchayat Award for eradicating untouchability, Sadbhawana Camp and Publicity for removing untouchability.