

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2532

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002

CHILD MARRIAGE

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to stop child marriage in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of child marriage cases which have come to the light of the Government during the last three years and the number of States where child marriages are solemnised time and again;
- (d) the details of such incidents State-wise;
- (e) whether the National Commission for Women has launched any awareness programme to aware of the people of this social evil;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to protect the rights of women?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has already enacted the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 fixing the minimum age for marriage for boys at 21 years and for girls at 18 years. The administration and implementation of this Act is the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

With the objective of raising the overall status of the girl child and bringing about a positive change in family and community attitudes towards her, the Government is implementing a scheme called 'Balika Samridhi Yojana' as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which funds are released to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for execution of the scheme. The Scheme covers up to two girl children born on or after 15th August, 1977 in family living below the poverty line.

Government is also undertaking mass media programmes against child marriages through electronic and print media.

(c)&(d) As per the statistical data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, 58 cases were registered in the country under the Child Marriage Restraint Act during the year 1999, 94 during 2000 and 63 during 2001 (upto available months). A statement showing the State and Union Territory-wise number of cases reported under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 during the last three years i.e. from 1999 to 2001 (upto available months) is attached at Annexure-I.

(e)&(f) The National Commission for Women (NCW) has intimated that with a view to identify the problems faced in implementation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, it proposes to hold public hearing in ten States where the child marriages are more prevalent. NCW has so far held public hearings in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

(g) A statement is attached at Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Statement in respect of reply to part (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2532 for 19-3-2002 regarding child marriage

Cases registered under Child Marriage Restraint Act during 1999, 2000 and 2001, State and Union Territory-wise compiled by the National Crimes Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs

S.No	Name	of	1999	2000	2001	Figures
	State/Union Territory					of 2001 are upto the month of

1	Andhra Pradesh	1	7	11	November
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	July
3	Assam	0	0	0	November
4	Bihar	3	3	0	November
5	Chattisgarh	NE	NE	NA	
6	Goa	0	0	0	December
7	Gujarat	31	31	3	December
8	Haryana	2	2	0	November
9	Himachal Pradesh	7	4	1	December
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	November
11	Jharkhand	NE	NE	NA	
12	Karnataka	0	2	4	December
13	Kerala	2	1	2	December
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	3	1	December
15	Maharashtra	2	33	33	Dec.(Oct.)
16	Manipur	0	0	0	November
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	November
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	December
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	December
20	Orissa	0	0	0	April
21	Punjab	2	2	0	December
22	Rajasthan	6	4	4	December
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	Oct.(June, July,Sept.)
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	December
25	Tripura	0	0	0	December
26	Uttaranchal	NE	NE	0	December
27	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	1	October
28	West Bengal	0	0	2	December
29	A & N Island	1	2	0	December
30	Chandigarh	0	0	1	Sept.(July)
31	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	Dec.(Oct.)
32	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	Dec.(April Aug.,Sept)
33	Delhi U.T	0	0	0	November
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	Dec.(March, Aprl.)
35	Pondicherry	0	0	0	December
Total (UTs)		1	2	1	
Total (All India)		58	94	63	

Source: 1999, 2000 - Crime in India data, 2001- Monthly Crime Statistics

Note:

1. Figures for 2000 and 2001 are provisional
2. NE stands for Not Existing
3. NA stands for Not Available
4. 1999 figures of Bihar repeated for 2000 due to non-availability

#### Annexure-II

Statement in respect of reply to part (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2532 for 19-3-2002 regarding child marriage

The Government has enacted several legislations to ensure the protection of the rights of women, gender equality and to prevent atrocities against women. Enforcement of these Acts is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government has been issuing instructions to the State Governments/Union Territory administrations to strictly enforce the laws concerning women and gender sensitise the administrative, enforcement and judicial personnel.

The Government is also implementing various schemes for economic empowerment of women, for imparting legal literacy and for providing support services to women. The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women adopted by the Government has stressed on strict enforcement of all legal provisions for women. The Policy has been circulated to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for implementation.

Provisions of law affecting women are being reviewed periodically and amendments carried out to keep pace with emerging requirements.

A National apex level statutory body called the 'National Commission for Women' was constituted on 31.1.92 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The functions of the Commission include investigating into the Constitutional and legal safeguards provided to women and to recommend to the Government measures for their effective implementation.