

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3277
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
CHILD MARRIAGE
MANSUKHBHAID. VASAVA

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

- (a) the efforts made by the Government to check Child Marriage;
- (b) whether the Government have succeeded in their efforts made, if any;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the number of the cases of Child Marriage noticed in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Partapgarh, Sultanpur and Rai Bareilly constituencies during the last three years; and
- (e) the number of F.I.Rs registered in these constituencies to check Child Marriage alongwith names of the persons registering such F.I.Rs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a), (b) and (c) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978 to fix the minimum age for marriage at 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls and offences under the Act were made cognizable.

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, 1997 in family living below the poverty line.

Government is also undertaking mass media programmes against child marriages through electronics and print media. During the year 2002, the National Commission for Women had organized an awareness campaign called "Bal Vivah Virodh Abhiyan", particularly in Andhra Pradesh and in the Northern States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where the evil of child marriage is most pronounced.

(d) and (e) The Central Government is not maintaining District wise information on child marriage as the administration of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union territory Administrations. However, as per the latest available statistics in 'Crime in India-1999 and 2000', published by the National Crime Records Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of cases registered in Uttar Pradesh during the years 1998 to 2000 is given below:

1998	-	0 (zero)
1999	-	1 (one)
2000	-	0 (zero)