

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1440  
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010  
ASSESSMENT ON EARLY MARRIAGES  
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any assessment has been made through National Family Health Survey (NFHS) regarding living standard of women and their getting married at a young age;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the measures the Government contemplates on the basis of this survey?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) & (b) As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) conducted during 2005-06, 26.9 percent of the Indian women in the age group (20-49) got married before the legal minimum marriage age of 18 years. The median age of marriage is 15.5 years for the Lowest Wealth Index quintile and 17.9 years for the Highest Wealth Index quintile.

(c) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is implementing the Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Programme through which trained medical service providers provide promotive and preventive services to young girls and counsel them for healthy living and the adverse effects of early marriage and pregnancy. Adolescent friendly health clinics have been established by several states/ Union Territories at Public Health Centre, Community Health Centre, District Hospital and Medical College levels for providing promotive, preventive and counselling services to the adolescent girls and boys in the age group of 10-19 years.