

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:235

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010

CHILD MARRIAGES

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a): whether the child marriages are still prevalent in many parts of the country;

(b): if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c): whether some of the State Governments are registering and legalising the child marriages;

(d): if so, the details thereof;

(e): whether the Union Government has prevailed upon such State Governments to observe the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 in letter and spirit; and

(f): if so, the details thereof and the further corrective measures taken by the Government for the enforcement of provisions of the said Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No, 235 for 12.03.2010 by Shri Jose K. Mani and Shri Varun Gandhi regarding "Child Marriages"

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per 2001 Census, number of ever married girls below 18 years was 48.7 lakhs. Illiteracy, social customs and concern about security and safety of the girl child, are some of the known reasons for child marriage.

(c) to (f) As per the information available the Government of Rajasthan has under the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2009, provided that in case of parties who have not completed the age of twenty one years, the parents or as the case may be, guardian of the parties, would submit a memorandum within thirty days from the date of solemnization of the marriage to the Registrar within whose jurisdiction the marriage is solemnized or both or any of the parties resides. At the same time, the Government of Rajasthan has framed Rules under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and has also appointed Child Marriage Prohibition Officers under the Act. The State Government of Rajasthan has been requested to follow the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 in letter and spirit and that registration of such marriages should not confer any legal status on them.