

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1871  
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2009  
CHILD MARRIAGES  
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

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

- (a) whether a recent study by the Population Council, India has revealed high incidence of child marriages in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such incidents reported in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

**Answer**

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

- (a), (b) & (c) As per the information received from the Population Council, a study on `The Youth in India: Situation and Needs` was undertaken by them in 2006-07 in six states of India namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The findings of the study show that in the three years prior to the interview, the percentage of women who married before the age of 18 years was 52.2 in Bihar, 42.7 in Jharkhand, 45.7 in Rajasthan, 15.7 in Maharashtra, 27.6 in Andhra Pradesh, and 9.5 in Tamil Nadu; and that of young men who married before the age of 21 years was 43.5 in Bihar, 34.6 in Jharkhand, 53.2 in Rajasthan, 13.8 in Maharashtra, 19.9 in Andhra Pradesh, and 5.9 in Tamil Nadu respectively.
- (d) In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation `The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006` (No. 6 of 2007) has been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007 and enforced w.e.f. 1.11.2007. Also, awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry for this purpose.