

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4421
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2010
CHILD MARRIAGES
Jena Shri Mohan

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

- (a) whether the child marriage leads to rise in infant mortality and maternal mortality rates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check these mortality rates?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 2005-06, the Infant Mortality Rate is 50.4 for mothers in age group (20-29) years and is 76.5 for mothers with age less than 20 years. The Maternal Mortality Ratio in India as per Sample Registration System (2004-06) is, 254 per lakh. Several factors including child marriage affect the infant mortality and maternal mortality rates.

(c) To reduce Maternal mortality, several steps have been taken which include:

Promoting institutional deliveries, strengthening of infrastructure, training of doctors in management of emergency obstetric care and skilled Birth Attendance, providing Ante- natal and Post Natal Care, organising Village Health and Nutrition Days, engagement of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in the community. For reducing child mortality/infant mortality rates, steps taken include:

Training of service providers in Integrated Management of Neo-natal & childhood illness, training of ASHAs in Home based new born care, setting up of sick new born care units at district hospitals, promoting exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding, strengthening routine immunisation programme, focussing on reduction in morbidity and mortality due to acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) and Diarrhoeal Diseases.

In order to prohibit child marriage, "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" has been enforced w.e.f 1st November 2007. Also, awareness In order to prohibit child marriage, "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" has been enforced w.e.f 1st November 2007. Also, awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.