

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2927
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010
PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

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

- (a) the number of child marriage cases registered during each of the last three years and the current year in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the National Commission for Women has expressed the concern over child marriage;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent child marriages particularly in Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) whether the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 are enough to deal with this menace;
- (e) if not, whether the Government proposes to amend the same with a view to curbing this evil; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): As per National Crime Records Bureau, State/Union Territory – wise number of cases of child marriage registered during 2007-2009 are enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): Government has written to State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh to appoint Prohibition Officer under the Act, frames rules and to take all possible steps to prevent Child Marriage, particularly, on the occasion of 'Akha Teej'(Akshya Tiritiya).

Besides, National Commission for Women (NCW) has requested the State Chief Ministers to sensitize and gear up the concerned machinery of the State Governments against those involved in the incidence of child marriage.

Further, workshops, seminars and legal awareness camps are organized in various States including Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to spread awareness and bring attitudinal changes to prevent child marriage.

(d) to (f): The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act has been made effective from November 2007. The effect of the provisions of the Act would be known after results of 2011 census are published. Currently, under the provision of the Act, marriage involving minors has not been declared invalid. The penalties are provided only for those who promote its solemnization. That being the case, the provisions by themselves are not adequate to fully contain the menace of child marriages.

Being a social evil, spreading education and creating awareness at the grass root level of society is equally essential.