

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3861
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011
CHILD MARRIAGES
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) the number of cases in which child marriages were prevented during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (b) the action taken by the Union Government?

Answer

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

(a) &(b): The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 has been made effective from November 2007. The implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 lies with the State Governments/Union Territories. The data on number of cases in which child marriages were prevented is not maintained by the Central Government. As per the data provided by National Crime Records Bureau, State/Union Territory – wise number of cases of child marriage registered during 2007-2009 are enclosed as Annex-I.

Some of the factors responsible for prevalence of child marriages in the country are lack of education and awareness about ill effects of child marriage, concerns about safety of the girl child, social customs, poor implementation of law etc.

The Government have written to the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh to appoint Prohibition Officer under the Act to frame Rules and to take all possible steps to prevent child marriage, particularly, on the occasion of 'AkhaTeej' (AkshyaTritiya').

Besides, the National Commission for Women has requested the State Chief Ministers to sensitize and gear up the concerned machinery of the State Governments against those involved in the incidents of child marriage. 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 about attitudinal change to prevent child marriage.