

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2154

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

CHILD MARRIAGES

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

- (a) whether there are a large number of unregistered child marriage cases in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if so, whether as per the Annual Health Survey 2010-11 conducted by Registrar General of India, Rajasthan has the highest number of cases of child marriage;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme for the welfare of children born from those girls who become mothers before the 18 years of age;
- (f) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the child marriages in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The incidents of Child Marriage reported by the National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs are enclosed at Annex. However, sample surveys on health indicators by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and by the Registrar General of India suggest prevalence of child marriages which are not registered.

(c) & (d): Annual Health Survey 2010-11 has covered the States of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Based on marriages that had taken place during 2007-2009 in the sample households, for these 9 States, marriages among females below legal age(18 years) was 10.2% for Assam, 20.2% for Bihar, 6.0% for Chhattisgarh, 17.6% for Jharkhand, 12.5% for Madhya Pradesh, 5.9% for Odisha, 21.9% for Rajasthan, 8.9% for Uttar Pradesh and 3.0% for Uttarakhand.

(e) & (f): There is no proposal to introduce any new scheme for welfare of children from those girls who become mothers before 18 years of age.

(g): The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 has been made effective from November 2007. Under PCMA 2006, every child marriage is voidable at the option of the contracting party who was a child at the time of the marriage, within two years of the child attaining majority.

The Government has written to 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, frames rules and to take all possible steps to prevent Child Marriage, particularly, on the occasion of 'AkhaTeej' ('Akshya Tritiya').

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 organised in various States including Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to spread awareness and bring attitudinal changes to prevent child marriage.

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