

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:307

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012

CHILD MARRIAGES

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

- (a) whether the child marriages are still prevalent in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made through National Family Health Survey (NFHS) regarding living standard of such women who got married at a young age;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the child marriages and for the welfare of such women on the basis of NFHS?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data which is available for the period ending 2011 the numbers of cases registered under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006 in the year 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 3, 60 and 113 respectively. State wise cases registered under PCMA 2006 are given in Annex 1.

(c): No Madam, the NFHS provides statistics on vital parameters only.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The Government takes cognizance of official statistics including that of NFHS in formulating policies and schemes. The Government of India enacted Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006, to provide for the prohibition of solemnisation of child marriages and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, which came into force with effect from November 2007. For effective implementation of the Act, State Governments have been requested from time to time to notify rules under the Section 19(1) and (2) of PCMA 2006. As per the information provided by the States/UTs, so far 24 States/UTs have framed the rules. In addition, the Government has taken following steps to address the issue of Child Marriage:

i. The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with UNICEF and HAQ-Centre for Child Rights, an NGO, has developed a Handbook on Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 which provides information on major provisions of the Act and responsibility of various stakeholders.

ii. 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.

iii. Every year, State Governments are requested to take special initiative to delay marriage by coordinated efforts on Akha Teej—the traditional day for such marriages.

iv. The Government of India launched SABLA, a Scheme for empowering adolescent girls, in 200 districts of the country on 19th November 2010. The Scheme aims at empowering adolescent girls (11-18 years) by improving their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills like home skills, life skills and vocational skills etc. and building awareness on various issues. They would also be sensitized towards the importance of marriage at the right age. By empowering adolescent girls, the Scheme addresses the issue of child marriage.

v. Workshops, seminars and legal awareness camps are organized in various States by the Ministry and its autonomous institutions to spread awareness and bring attitudinal changes to prevent child marriage.