

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1796

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013

CHILD MARRIAGES

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

- (a) whether 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 during National Family Health Survey (NFHS) regarding living standard of such women who got married at a young age;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there are large number of cases of unregistered/unreported child marriages in the country; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof along with the measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent child marriages and for the welfare of such women on the basis of the assessment made by the NFHS?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. As per the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data which is available till the year 2012, the number of cases registered under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006 in the year 2010, 2011, 2012 are 60 113 and 169 respectively which shows prevalence of Child Marriage in the country. State wise cases registered under PCMA 2006 in the year 2010, 2011 and 2012 are given in Annex.

(c): No Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): While National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3, 2005-06) shows that the percentage of women aged 18-29 who were married before reaching the legal age of 18 years, is 46 percent. NCRB data shows the number of cases registered under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006 in the year 2010, 2011, 2012 are 60 113 and 169 respectively. From which it can be inferred that there is an under-reporting of cases of child marriage.

(f): Besides, requesting the State Governments to take necessary action for effective implementation of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the Government has taken following steps to address the issue of child marriage:

(i) The Ministry of Women & Child Development has prepared a draft National Plan of Action on Prevention of Child Marriage, inter-alia focusing on

(a) Enforcement of PCMA and related laws

(b) Promoting right to quality education with special emphasis on girls

(c) Generating change in social norms and attitudes.

(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 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.

(vi) The National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) has taken up pilots in various States to address this issue through PSKs (Poorna Shakti Kendras) and also each State has been requested to include this subject in their State Action Plan on Women.