

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:411

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013

CHILD MARRIAGE

Bauri Smt. Susmita;Biju Shri P. K.;Jindal Shri Naveen;Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

(a) whether child marriages are still prevalent in the country particularly in the rural areas due to improper implementation of various laws, programmes and policies made by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the number of child marriages reported during each of the last three years and the current year. State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to review the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, associated Acts and the efficacy of the existing mechanisms put in place to prevent child marriages and punish the offenders and if so, the details thereof along with the number of cases of child marriages in which the offenders have been punished during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise ;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to declare child marriages as legal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has refused to sign the United Nation's resolution on Child Marriage in the recent past and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent child marriages in the country ?

Answer

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

(a): According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3, 2005-06) around 46 percentage of women aged 18-29 were married before reaching the legal age of 18. Of these 53.4 percent were in rural areas and 29.7 percent in urban areas. However, as per the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data, 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. State/UT wise cases registered under PCMA 2006 in the year 2010, 2011 and 2012 are given in Annex I.

(b): The Government of India brought into force the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) with effect from 1st November, 2007 repealing the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) of 1929 in order to prohibit child marriages rather than only restraining them. The PCMA provides for punitive measures against those who perform, permit and promote child marriage. State/UT wise details of persons convicted under the PCMA are given in Annexure II.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): No, Madam. The Resolution titled 'Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage : challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps' was adopted by consensus at the 24th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Sept.2013. India supported the resolution and made a statement.