

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4742
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
NFHS REGARDING EARLY MARRIAGE
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the light during a National Family Health Survey that girls are getting married at an early age below 18 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) & (b) As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) conducted during 2005-06, 26.9 percent of the Indian women in the age group (20-49) got married before the legal minimum marriage age of 18 years.

(c) In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act moir© effective with punishment for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" has been notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007 and the said Act has been enforced w.e.f. 1.11.2007. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 is repealed with the enforcement of the said Act. Also, awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken in this connection.