

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:414
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
CHILD MARRIAGE
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) the details of infant, child and maternal mortality rate reported along with the reasons for high mortality rates in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether child marriage is one of the reasons for high infant mortality rate in the country particularly in rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) has directed the States to take adequate steps to prevent child marriages in their respective States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the States thereto; and
- (e) the other 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) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 414 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.02.2014
ASKED BY SHRI P.KARUNAKARAN REGARDING CHILD MARRIAGE

(a) & (b): As per the Sample Registration System reports published by Registrar General of India (RGI-SRS), infant mortality rate (IMR) and Under 5 mortality rate (U5MR) in India are as under:

Indicator	SRS 2009	SRS 2010	SRS 2011	SRS 2012
# Infant Mortality Rate	50	47	44	42
# Under five Mortality Rate	64	59	55	52

expressed as a rate per 1000 live births.

The RGI-SRS provides Maternal Mortality Rate for the country at three year intervals. The latest data on MMR for 2007-09 and 2010-12 is as under.

SRS	2004-06	2007-09	2010-12
# Maternal Mortality Rate	20.7	16.3	12.4

#number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 of women in the age group 15-49.

Reasons for Infant and Maternal deaths in India:

As per SRS 2001-03 reports, the medical causes of death among infants are perinatal conditions (46%), respiratory infections (22%), diarrhoeal disease (10%), other infectious and parasitic diseases (8%), and congenital anomalies (3.1%).

As per WHO 2012 estimates, the causes of Child Mortality in the age group 0-5 years in India are neonatal causes (52%), pneumonia (15%), diarrhoeal disease (11%), measles (3%), injuries (4%) and others (15%).

As per the RGI-SRS report titled "Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 trends, causes and risk factors", major causes of maternal deaths in the country are hemorrhage (38%), sepsis (11%), hypertensive disorders (5%), obstructed labour (5%), abortion (8%) and other conditions (34%), which includes anaemia.

Further, low literacy, lack of spacing between births, early age at marriage & child bearing, high parity, cultural misconceptions home delivery by unskilled persons, poor child care practices and health seeking behavior, inadequate/delayed referral mechanisms, poor hygiene and sanitary conditions with inadequate availability of safe drinking water are other reasons for infant and maternal mortality.

(c) & (d): As per the provisions of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, the role of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is monitoring and recommendatory in nature. The Commission has written to the State Governments on Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and held consultations on the issue.

(e): The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006, prohibits solemnization of child marriages and provides for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The States are being regularly pursued for its effective implementation. Further, State Governments are requested to take special initiative to delay marriage by coordinated efforts on Akha Teej—the traditional day for such marriages; the Government has declared January 24 of every year as 'National Girl Child Day' to create awareness and promote sensitization; SABLA, a Scheme for empowering adolescent girls, in 205 districts has been launched on 19th November 2010 to empower 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 which also addresses the issue of child marriage and 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.