

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2864

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015

CHILD MARRIAGE

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

- (a) whether the incidents child marriages have increased in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has directed the States to take adequate steps to prevent child marriages in their respective States, if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the States thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has refused to sign global resolution on child marriage in the recent past, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent child marriage and to punish the culprits of such marriages in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

- (a): As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data which is available till the year 2013, the State wise details of number of cases registered under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 during 2011 to 2013 are annexed. The data of last three years shows increasing trend. The reasons for child marriage are complex and it is mindset problem which considers girl child as a burden. Social customs, tradition, illiteracy, poverty, low status of women in society, lack of awareness about consequences of child marriage are some of the other reasons that encourage the practice of child marriage.
- (b): No such directions have been issued by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to the State Government.
- (c): 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 September, 2013. India supported the resolution and made a statement.
- (d): Government of India is concerned about the prevalence of Child Marriages in the country and put in place necessary legislation viz. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006 to tackle the problem. The States/UTs from time to time are being regularly pursued for effective implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Further, State Governments are requested to take special initiative to delay marriage by coordinated efforts on Akha Teej—the traditional day for such marriages; Advertisements in the press and electronic media educating peoples about the issue of Child Marriage etc also being taken up. Platforms such as the International Women's Day and the National Girl Child Day are used to create awareness on issues related to women and to bring to the centre stage issues such as child marriage. Through the Sabla programme of this Ministry, adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are imparted training with regard to legal rights of women which also includes the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.