

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4433

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

CHILD MARRIAGE

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Mukherjee Shri Abhijit

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to identify the cases of unregistered child marriages in the country, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the child marriages are still prevalent in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of cases of child marriages in which the offenders have been punished during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to eliminate the evil practice of child marriage and to ensure effective implementation of the PCMA, 2006 in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Women and Child Development has not conducted a study in recent years. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, total number of cases registered and persons convicted under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 during 2011 to 2013 are annexed. The reasons for child marriage are complex and include a mindset that 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 reasons that encourage the practice of child marriage.

(d) & (e): There is no proposal at present to amend the said Act. 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; 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 sex selective abortions and child marriage. Through the Sabla programme of this Ministry, adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are imparted about training with regard to legal rights of women.