

In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) was enacted and notified on 11th January, 2007.

Also awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in this connection.

Child budgeting

2566.SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government has adopted the Child Budgeting and if so, the objectives of adopting it;

(b) the Ministries that have incorporated child budgeting components, the details of allocations made during last three years on child-related schemes. Ministry-wise;

(c) the comparison of child budget to total Union Budget during the last three years; and

(d) whether the component of child budget changed in RE *vis-a-vis* the BE for the years; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been following the allocation and expenditure on the schemes and programmes of various Ministries and Departments for children with reference to the Union Budget and conducting an analysis thereof by including a chapter on "Child Budgeting" in the Annual Reports of the Ministry since 2004-05.

The specific schemes and programmes for children of various Ministries and Departments have been divided into four categories, namely, child development, child health, child education and child protection for the purpose of understanding the trend for allocation and expenditure. It has been observed in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the Year 2007-08 that the outlay for child specific schemes as a proportion of the Union Budget has been 4.25% in 2005-06 (RE), 4.86% in 2006-07 (BE) and 5.08% in 2007-08 (BE).

There is, however, non specific proposal at this stage for pursuing child budgeting.

Retention of high malnutrition rate

2567.MS. SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: