

Redressal Committees at the State and District levels for addressing the grievances of Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers.

UNICEF report on child marriage

2409. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether the recent report by the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) has revealed that India tops in child marriage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of remedial measures suggested in the report to prevent same; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken to prevent such child marriages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) The United Nations International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) Report "The Progress for Children - A Report Card on Child Protection" of September, 2009 was not released in India. Further, the estimates are based on 96 countries representing 61% of the world population and does not include data from populous countries like China. The Report has not made any specific recommendations to prevent child marriages in India.

The Government of India repealed the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and replaced it by "The Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006" with a view to prohibit child marriages and to provide for stringent punishment for offenders. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007 and has been enforced w.e.f. 1st November, 2007.

Retirement age of Anganwadi workers and helpers

2410. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed the age of retirement for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers;
- (b) if so, the details of schemes formulated by Government to compensate the Anganwadi employees being retired; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers are honorary workers and not government employees. Besides, the ICDS Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the State Govts./UTs. There are no guidelines issued by the Government stipulating retirement age for AWWs and AWHs. However, their honorary services can be discontinued on attainment of a particular age. The issue of fixing the upper age limit has been left to the State Govt./UT Admns. to take an appropriate view in the matter.

National Advisory Board for curbing malnutrition

2411. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRYA:

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

- (a) whether, to curb malnutrition, the Central Government has been actively considering to set up a National Advisory Board;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other effective steps Government proposes to take to curb malnutrition across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up a National Advisory Board to curb malnutrition. A Food and Nutrition Board already exists in the Government.

The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral in nature. The Government is implementing several schemes which have an impact on the nutritional status of the people.