

Child marriage

3711. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child marriage cases registered during each of the last three years and the current year in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women has expressed its concern over child marriages;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent child marriages particularly in Bihar and Rajasthan;

(d) whether the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act., 2006 are enough to deal with this menace; and

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the same with a view to curbing this evil; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) As per National Crime Records Bureau, State/Union Territory - wise number of cases of child marriage registered during 2007-2009 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Government has written to State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh to appoint Prohibition Officer under the Act, frames rules and to take all possible steps to prevent Child Marriage, steps to prevent Child Marriage, particularly, on the occasion of 'Akha Teej' (Akshya Tritiya).

Besides, 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.

Further, workshops, seminars and legal awareness camps are organised in various States including Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to spread awareness and bring attitudinal changes to prevent child marriage.

(d) and (e) The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act has been made effective from November 2007. The effect of the provisions of the Act would be known after results of 2011 census are published. Currently, under the provision of the Act, marriage involving minors has not been declared invalid. The penalties are provided only for those who promote its solemnisation. That being the case, the provisions by themselves are not adequate to fully contain the menace of child marriages.

Being a social evil, spreading education and creating awareness at the grass root level of society is equally essential.

Statement

Child Marriage Cases Registered

Sl.No.	State/UT	2007	2008	2009
		CR	CR	CR
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	19	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Assam	1	1	1
4	Bihar	8	8	0
5	Chhattisgarh	4	5	0
6	Goa	0	1	0
7	Gujarat	14	23	0
8	Haryana	4	4	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	2
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	4	0	0
12	Karnataka	4	9	3
13	Kerala	1	4	0

1	2	3	4	5
14	Madhya Pradesh	5	2	0
15	Maharashtra	7	5	0
16	Manipur	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	1	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0
20	Orissa	1	1	0
21	Punjab	5	6	0
22	Rajasthan	3	3	0
23	Sikkim	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	2	4	0
25	Tripura	1	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
27	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	9	6	0
TOTAL STATE		96	103	4
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	1
31	D&N Haveli	0	0	0
32	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
33	Delhi UT	0	1	0
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35	Puducherry	0	0	
TOTAL UT		0	1	1
ALL INDIA TOTAL		96	104	5

Source: NCRB