

- (a) the States and the communities where the practices of “Gauna” along with child marriage are still prevalent;
- (b) whether Government would fix the minimum age for “Gauna”; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Gauna is a tradition practiced primarily in the northern States of India, including Rajasthan, Haryana in which a young bride lives with her parents until another ceremony is performed, after which the bride goes to live with her husband.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006, to provide for the prohibition of solemnisation of child marriages and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This Act came into force with effect from November, 2007. PCMA States that:

- (i) To make a child go through a marriage is an offence.
- (ii) Child means a person, who, if a male, has not completed twenty-one years of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age;

Since child marriage is prohibited under PCMA 2006, the question of fixing age for Gauna does not arise.

Schemes for child development

1076. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that both crime against children and crimes committed by children is showing an increasing trend;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the existing schemes and their geographical coverage for child development in the country; and
- (d) the details of implementation and progress made across different states under such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) As per data available with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crimes against children are showing an increasing trend in the past three years. As reported, incidents of crimes against children, which were registered, numbered 24,201 in 2009, 26,694 in 2010, and 33,098 in 2011. The increase is attributed to an increase in kidnapping and abduction, infanticide, rape and murder during the period.

As far as incidents of juvenile crime are concerned, crimes committed by children have not recorded a consistent increase in the last three years. As reported, such incidents numbered 23,926 in 2009, 22,740 in 2010 and 25,125 in 2011.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Services available in creches

1077. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number and the details of the services available in the creches across different states in India under Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): A total of 23,673 creches are functional across different States in India under the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, 2006. The Scheme provides day care facilities to children from the age group of 0-6 years of working mothers belonging to families whose monthly income is not more than Rs. 12,000/-. The scheme, *inter-alia*, also provides development services *i.e.* supplementary nutrition, health care inputs like immunization, polio drops, basic growth monitoring and recreation to such children.

Reform agenda for single women

1078. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reform agenda before Government to tackle the 36 million single women according to 2001 census consisting of legally divorced, separated and widowed;