

following the recommendations of the National Workshop held on 8th to 9th February, 2007. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, representatives of State Governments, UNICEF and WHO participated in the Workshop.

Early marriages of female population

1272. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nearly 102.61 million women, roughly a sixth of India's female population of 587.58 million, were married before they had turned 18, according to the recent Census data; and

(b) if so, details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) Government of India is seized of the matter and has put in place necessary legislation *viz.* Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006 to tackle the problem. The States/UTs from time to time are being regularly pursued for effective implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Further, State Governments are requested to take special initiative to delay marriage by coordinated efforts on *Akshya 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 child marriage. Through the Sabla Programme of this Ministry, adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are imparted training with regard to legal rights of women which also includes the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

Norms for child adoption

1273. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child adoption both domestic State-wise and international, Country-wise for the last three years;

(b) whether the Central Adoption Resource Authority has proposed stricter norms for child adoption, if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereon; and

(c) in what manner the new norms would tackle problems such as illegal adoption and child trafficking?