

Increase in child marriages

3039. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of child marriages are increasing in the country and so also the child Brides numbers are increasing;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken a serious note of this and taken any action to curb child marriages;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of child marriages reported in the country during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) The percentage of women (in the age group of 20-24 years), who were married before the age of 18 years, has reduced from 47.4% in 2005-06 as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) to 26.8% in 2015-16 as per NFHS-4. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Report, State-wise number of child marriages reported in the country during the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

The Government of India has enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 in order to prohibit child marriages rather than only restraining them. The States/UTs are being pursued from time to time for effective implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India regularly sends out letters to States/UTs to increase alertness to prevent underage marriages during festivals such as Akshaya Tritiya/Akha Teej, etc.

The practice of Child Marriages is largely due to the prevailing social customs, tradition, illiteracy, poverty, low status of women in society and lack of awareness. These issues cannot be tackled by legislative interventions alone. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme envisages education of girls and reduces dropouts, thus delaying their marriage. A significant part of the BBBP advocacy campaign is focused on creating awareness on and discouraging the practice of child marriage. This is a continuous process and Government undertakes media campaigns and outreach programmes to address the issue of child marriage.

Statement

State-wise number of child marriages in the country as per National Crime Records Bureau Report during the years 2016, 2017 and 2018

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2016	2017	2018
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	15	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	23	58	88
4.	Bihar	0	17	35
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	1	2
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	12	6	8
8.	Haryana	14	18	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	5	9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	4	1	7
12.	Karnataka	51	65	73
13.	Kerala	8	15	18
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9	5	3
15.	Maharashtra	16	20	13
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	15	17	22
21.	Punjab	8	8	6

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Rajasthan	12	6	11
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	55	55	67
25.	Telangana	19	25	24
26.	Tripura	1	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	4	4
28.	Uttarakhand	1	1	2
29.	West Bengal	41	49	70
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	2	2
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
34.	Delhi UT	1	1	1
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	5	0	0
TOTAL		326	395	501

Lack of trained professionals at One Stop Centres

3040. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the lack of trained professionals at One Stop Centres and presence of more male staff employed at these Centres which tends to make the women uncomfortable;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to change the hostile environment of the Centres and make it more female-friendly?