

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1594
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

PREVENTION OF CHILD MARRIAGE

1594 SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of *Women and Child Development* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of child marriage reported in the country, State-wise, during the last five years;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to prevent child marriage and promote education and empowerment of girls; and
- (c) the details of schemes and programmes implemented by Government to support the education and economic empowerment of girls who are victims of child marriage?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes the data on the number of cases of child marriage registered under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 in its publication 'Crime in India'. The said report is available upto the year 2022 – Crime Head-Wise and State/ UT-wise. As per information available with NCRB, the number of cases registered under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, (PCMA), 2006 during the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 501, 523, 785, 1050 and 1002 respectively. The State wise details of child marriage cases registered under PCMA, 2006 during the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 is at **Annexure**.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens, investigation and prosecution of crime against women and children including prohibition of child marriages, rests with the respective State Governments and UT Administrations; they are competent to deal with such offenses/ criminal acts.

Government has enacted PCMA to curb child marriages and to take punitive action against those associated with child marriages. Section 16 of the PCMA authorises the State Government to appoint for the whole State, or such part there of as may be specified, an officer or officers to be known as the 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)' having jurisdiction over the area or areas specified in the notification. This section also specifies the functions to be discharged by CMPOs, which include preventing solemnisation of child marriages by taking such action as they may deem fit; to collect evidence for the effective prosecution of persons contravening the provisions of the Act; to advise the individuals or counsel the residents of the locality not to indulge in promoting, helping, aiding or allowing the solemnisation of child marriages; to create awareness about the ill effects of child marriages; and to sensitize the community on the issue of child marriages. All these authorities function under the direct control and supervision of respective State Governments and UT Administrations. As such, implementation of the provisions of the Act lies with them.

The Central Government at its level undertakes awareness drives, media campaigns and outreach programs and issues advisories to the States/ UTs from time to time to highlight evil effects of this practice. The Ministry has also been writing to all States/ UTs to increase the number of CMPOs, as presence of Statutory Officer at local levels results in even more effective public engagement on the subject and prevention of solemnisation of child marriage. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) implements the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme under the umbrella 'Mission Shakti', wherein creation of awareness on matters pertaining to gender equality and discouraging child marriage is an important focus area. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) also undertakes awareness programs and consultations with stakeholders from time to time in this regard.

In addition, Government of India has introduced Child Helpline with short code 1098, a toll-free 24X7X365 telephone emergency outreach service for children in crisis which responds with suitable interventions to call for any form of assistance which a child requires, including for prevention of child marriages, in coordination with police, CMPOs, District Child Protection Units etc. The Child Helpline has also been integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) to provide for 24x7x365 emergency response, resources and services. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development also launched 'Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat' campaign on 27.11.2024 at New Delhi. Under the campaign, a portal '<https://stopchildmarriage.wcd.gov.in>' has been launched to support the States/UTs in raising awareness against child marriage and for effective reporting and prevention of incidences of child marriage. The portal also has facility to provide information to citizens about Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) of all States/ UTs.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1594 FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2025 ASKED BY SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL 'PREVENTION OF CHILD MARRIAGE'

The State-wise details of child marriage registered under PCMA, 2006 during the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

SL	State/UT	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		CR	CR	CR	CR	CR
1	Andhra Pradesh	14	4	32	19	26
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	88	115	138	155	163
4	Bihar	35	8	5	11	13
5	Chhattisgarh	2	0	1	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	8	20	15	12	9
8	Haryana	21	20	33	33	37
9	Himachal Pradesh	9	4	5	5	4
10	Jharkhand	7	3	3	4	5
11	Karnataka	73	111	184	273	215
12	Kerala	18	7	8	12	6
13	Madhya Pradesh	3	4	5	4	7
14	Maharashtra	13	20	50	82	99
15	Manipur	0	0	0	2	1
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	22	22	24	64	46
20	Punjab	6	6	13	8	4
21	Rajasthan	11	19	3	11	10
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	67	46	77	169	155
24	Telangana	24	35	60	57	53
25	Tripura	1	0	4	1	2
26	Uttar Pradesh	4	4	12	6	17
27	Uttarakhand	2	2	9	12	6
28	West Bengal	70	68	98	105	121
	TOTAL STATE(S)	498	518	779	1045	999
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	2	1	1	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	0	1	0	0	0
32	Delhi	1	2	4	2	1
33	Jammu & Kashmir*	0	1	1	2	2
34	Ladakh			0	0	0

35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	1	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	3	5	6	5	3
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	501	523	785	1050	1002

Source: Crime in India