

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.4526
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020

CHILD MARRIAGES

4526. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of child marriages have increased over the years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any action to prevent and end 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?

ANSWER

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 the National Family Health Survey (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 at **Annexure**.

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 reduce 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.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) TO THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.4526 FOR 20.03.2020 ASKED BY SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK REGARDING 'CHILD MARRIAGES'

State-wise number of child marriages reported in the country during the year 2016, 2017 and 2018

S. No.	States/UTs	2016	2017	2018
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 & 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
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	A & N Islands	1	0	0
31	Chandigarh	0	2	2
32	D&N Haveli	0	0	0
33	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
34	Delhi UT	1	1	1
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	5	0	0
	Total	326	395	501
