

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 16.08.2010
ANSWERED ON
UNICEF REPORT ON CHILD MARRIAGE .

2409

Smt. Mohsina Kidwai

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

- (a) whether the recent report by the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) has revealed that India tops in child marriage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of remedial measures suggested in the report to prevent same; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken to prevent such child marriages?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (d) The United Nations International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) Report "The Progress for Children – A Report Card on Child Protection" of September, 2009 was not released in India. Further, the estimates are based on 96 countries representing 61% of the world population and does not include data from populous countries like China. The Report has not made any specific recommendations to prevent child marriages in India.

The Government of India repealed the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and replaced it by "The Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006" with a view to prohibit child marriages and to provide for stringent punishment for offenders. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007 and has been enforced w.e.f. 1st November, 2007.