

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2560**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

**HIKE IN REPORTED CASES OF CHILD MARRIAGE**

2560. DR. SONAL MANSINGH:

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

- a. whether Government is concerned on hike in reported cases of child marriages in the country;
- b. if so, the details thereof;
- c. the number of child marriages reported in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- d. the number of cases registered and persons arrested during the last three years, State-wise;
- e. whether child marriages are getting support from some religious groups; and
- f. if so, the details thereof and steps taken to eradicate such traditions from the society?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): 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 2021. As per information available with NCRB, the number of cases registered under 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' during, 2019, 2020 and 2021 are 523, 785 and 1050 respectively. However, higher reporting of cases does not necessarily reflect increase in the number of cases of child marriages, but it may be because of increased awareness among citizens to report such incidents due to initiatives by the Government and better enforcement of law by States/ UTs.

(c) & (d): The details of the number of child marriage cases registered and persons arrested during the last three years, State/ UT-wise are at **Annexure**.

(e): Instances have come to the notice that some sections of society continue to indulge in the practice of child marriage in the name of custom, practices and/ or religious beliefs etc. In some cases, writ petitions have also been filed before Hon'ble Courts of law for upholding the validity of marriage of a minor girl on these grounds under personal laws.

(f): The Government has introduced a Bill namely 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Parliament on 21.12.2021 for raising the age of marriage of women to 21 years to make it at par with the men. The proposed legislation is an important step towards gender equality and women's empowerment. It proposes to cover all women and girls of the country irrespective of their caste or religion or place of birth or custom, usage or practice governing them in relation to marriage by giving it an overriding effect over other laws.

The proposed Bill also has provisions to make consequential amendments in the enactments, inter alia, relating to age of marriage of parties, such as 'The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872', 'The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936', 'The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937', 'The Special Marriage Act, 1954', 'The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955', and 'The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969'. The Bill has since been referred to Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports for examination.

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**Annexure**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.2560 FOR ANSWER ON 22.03.2023 ASKED BY DR. SONAL MANSINGH REGARDING 'HIKE IN REPORTED CASES OF CHILD MARRIAGE'**

Number of cases registered and persons arrested during each of the last three years i.e. 2019, 2020 and 2021, State-wise under 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006'.

Sl. No.	State/UT	2019		2020		2021	
		Cases registered	Person arrested	Cases registered	Person arrested	Cases registered	Person arrested
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	15	32	23	19	18
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	115	147	138	200	155	266
4	Bihar	8	27	5	9	11	11
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	1	0	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	20	83	15	66	12	37
8	Haryana	20	22	33	63	33	67
9	Himachal Pradesh	4	17	5	20	5	13
10	Jharkhand	3	4	3	6	4	3
11	Karnataka	111	192	184	273	273	544
12	Kerala	7	10	8	20	12	32
13	Madhya Pradesh	4	12	5	11	4	5
14	Maharashtra	20	76	50	88	82	142
15	Manipur	0	0	0	0	2	2
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	22	19	24	20	64	51
20	Punjab	6	18	13	21	8	13
21	Rajasthan	19	55	3	4	11	27
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	46	131	77	267	169	451
24	Telangana	35	52	60	85	57	118
25	Tripura	0	0	4	2	1	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	4	14	12	24	6	13
27	Uttarakhand	2	9	9	9	12	23
28	West Bengal	68	71	98	87	105	141
	<b>TOTAL STATE(S)</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>1977</b>
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	1	3	1	2	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	1	3	0	3	0	0
32	Delhi	2	1	4	7	2	12
33	Jammu & Kashmir*	1	0	1	0	2	4
34	Ladakh			0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	1	1
	<b>TOTAL UT(S)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1310</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1994</b>