

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1653**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018 /PHALGUNA 15, 1939 (SAKA)**

**MARRIAGE OF MINOR GIRLS WITH SHEIKHS**

**†1653. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether several cases of sheikhs from Arab countries marrying minor girls in India have come to light;**

**(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to take any action against the said persons;**

**(c) if so, the details thereof;**

**(d) whether cases of trafficking of minor Indian muslim girls under the shield of marriage has also come to light;**

**(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any steps to check such practice; and**

**(f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

**(a) to (c): In response to the information sought by the Ministry of Home Affairs from the State Governments and UTs on the point whether nationals of some Gulf countries have been marrying minor girls in India, the Government of Telangana had informed that in the year 2014 to 2017, they had registered 8 cases against nationals of certain Gulf countries for marriage with minor girls and had arrested 47 accused persons and identified 8 victims. Year-wise details of the same are mentioned below:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of cases registered</b>	<b>No. of victims</b>	<b>No. of accused arrested</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>47</b>

**(d) to (f): Taking cognizance of news reports in print and electronic media about nationals of certain gulf countries coming to Hyderabad to marry minor muslim girls, the National Commission for Women had constituted an Inquiry Committee which found that nationals from Gulf countries marry minor muslim girls after paying money to brokers and middle men and to the families of girls. In most cases, the girl is subjected to exploitation, violence and cruelty. After inquiry in some cases, the Telangana Police arrested some nationals of gulf countries.**

**Based on the findings of the Inquiry Committee, the National Commission for Women made a series of recommendations to address the situation and forwarded the same to concerned Ministries and Departments such as Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Employment etc. to take suitable action. The report/recommendations of the National Commission for Women was forwarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs to all State Governments and UT**

**Administrations for their guidance in addressing the issue of human trafficking/exploitation of minors.**

**‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects and as such prevention of the crime of trafficking is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the States and UTs by providing them regular guidance through various advisories issued from time to time. These advisories are available on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs at: <http://mha.gov.in>. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also signed bilateral agreements on Human Trafficking with Bangladesh, UAE and Cambodia to address the issue of transnational trafficking. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also released financial support to all States for setting up Anti Human Trafficking Units in various districts of the States to address trafficking related issues.**

\*\*\*\*\*