

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4059
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2019

CHILD MARRIAGE

4059. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that although child marriage is prohibited and constitute as an offence, the Hindu Marriage Act recognises it as voidable, but valid;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of child marriages reported across the country during the last three years and the current year and recognised as void; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make child marriage legal and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) & (b): Presently, as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA), any marriage where either of the contracting party is a child at the time of the marriage is voidable at the option of the contracting parties if they approach the court within two years of attaining their majority.
- (c): Prevalence data of Child Marriage is not available on annual basis. This is collected in Census and National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which are conducted periodically every few years. Data on the reporting of child marriage is available on annual basis from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Due to improved awareness, these reports have increased from 2014, 2015 to 2016. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the State-wise Cases Registered (CR) under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 during 2014, 2015 and 2016 are at **Annexure-I**.
- (d): The Government of India proposes to amend "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006". The proposed amendments would declare child marriage void *ab initio* instead of being voidable at the option of the contracting parties who were child at the time of marriage.

Annexure -I

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (c) to the Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No. 4059 for 04.01.2019 regarding 'Child Marriage'

No. of Cases Registered (CR) under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 during 2014, 2015 and 2016

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	15	19
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Assam	4	14	23
4	Bihar	10	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	2	6	8
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	16	9	12
8	Haryana	15	14	14
9	Himachal Pradesh	4	1	0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	1	1	4
12	Karnataka	44	35	51
13	Kerala	19	13	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	15	9	9
15	Maharashtra	14	24	16
16	Manipur	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0
20	Odisha	0	1	15
21	Punjab	2	5	8
22	Rajasthan	5	6	12
23	Sikkim	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	47	77	55
25	Telangana	13	15	19
26	Tripura	1	2	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	10	4	3
28	Uttarakhand	0	1	1
29	West Bengal	37	40	41
30	A & N Islands	0	1	1
31	Chandigarh	0	0	0
32	D & N Haveli	0	0	0
33	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
34	Delhi	2	0	1
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	3	0	5
	Total	280	293	326
