

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1118
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

CHILD MARRIAGE

1118. SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to increase the minimum age of marriage of girls from 18 to 21, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note that child marriages are still prevalent in the country and if so, the measures adopted to check it; and
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any schemes and projects for the empowerment of the married women in India, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) : A Task Force has been constituted to examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with (i) health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/infant/child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter, (ii) key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (CSR) etc. and (iii) any other relevant points pertaining to health and nutrition in this context.

(b) & (c) : The Government has enacted the 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006'. Govt also undertakes awareness drives, media campaigns and outreach programmes and issues advisories to States and UTs from time to time for its effective implementation, while highlighting the ill effects of child marriage. Further, the Government implements a number of Schemes for empowerment of girls and women, including married women. These inter-alia include the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK), Swadhar Greh, Ujjawala, Working Women Hostel, One Stop Centre, Universalisation of Women Helpline, Mahila Police Volunteer, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana etc. schemes. Details thereof are available on the Ministry's website at <https://wcd.nic.in/schemes-listing/2405>. Under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)' and 'Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK)' schemes, enhancing awareness on matters pertaining to gender equality, child marriage and women empowerment is an important focus area.
