

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.2115
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.09.2020

PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE

2115 : DR. UMESH G. JADHAV :

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that although child marriage is prohibited and is considered as an offence, the Hindu Marriage Act recognizes it as capable of being voidable yet valid;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of the child marriages reported across the country during the last three year including the current year; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make child marriages legal and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : As per the provisions of 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' (PCMA), any marriage, wherein either of the contracting party is a child (in case of female below the age of 18 years and in case of male below the age of 21 years) at the time of the marriage is voidable at the option of the contracting parties, if they approach the court of law within two years of attaining majority. The Act declares solemnization of child marriages as a cognizable and non-bailable offence and penalises any male adult marrying a child or any person who solemnises, promotes or permits solemnisation of child marriage.

(c) : As per the data published on the website of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) i.e. <https://ncrb.gov.in>, which is available till the year 2018, in three years (from 2016 to 2018), a total of 1,222 cases were reported under PCMA.

(d) : No Sir.
