

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.760
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

CHILD MARRIAGE

760. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cases of child marriages is on the increase in several States, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any surveys to evaluate increase in child marriages during the COVID-19 lockdown and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether any action plan has been drawn up to prevent such child marriages and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of instance of child marriages recorded across the country, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes information on crimes in its publication "Crime in India". The published reports are available till the year 2019. The State-wise data including that of Tamil Nadu is available on the website of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), <https://ncrb.gov.in>. No credible data is available to indicate rising number of child marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic including in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Government has enacted the "Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006". The Government also undertakes awareness drives, media campaigns and outreach programmes and issues advisories to the States/ UTs from time to time to highlight evil effects of this practice. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the schemes of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)" in which creation of awareness on matters pertaining to gender equality and discouraging of child marriage is an important focus area.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) also undertakes awareness programmes and consultations with stakeholders from time to time in this regard. In addition, Government of India has introduced CHILDLINE 1098, a 24/7 telephone emergency outreach service for children in crisis which answers calls related to any form of assistance a child requires including to prevent child marriages in coordination with police, Child Marriage Prohibition Officers and District Child Protection Units etc.
