

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2076**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022

**PANDEMIC EFFECT ON CHILD MARRIAGES**

2076. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a survey to study the effect of the pandemic on child marriages and if so, the details and finding thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that several states have witnessed an increase in child marriages during and after the pandemic, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct awareness campaigns on the issue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch a scheme to disincentivise child marriages and if so, the details thereof and if not, the alternate plans to address child marriages?

**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, including cases reported under 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' in its publication "Crime in India". The published reports are available till the year 2020. The State-wise data is available on the website of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), <https://ncrb.gov.in>. However, there is no data to indicate that the number of child marriages have increased due to COVID-19 pandemic.

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 scheme of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)" in which creation of awareness on matters pertaining to gender equality and discouraging 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 with telephonic short code 1098, a 24/7 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.