

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2203
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022

LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE

2203. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to raise the legal age of marriage of women from 18 to 21 years and made legislative amendments in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring uniformity in the marriageable age of men and women and to make amendments to various personal laws relating to marriage of various communities to ensure uniformity in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government has introduced a Bill namely 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021' in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2021 for raising the minimum age of marriage of women to 21 years to make it at par with that of men.

The proposed Bill also has provisions to make consequential amendments in the enactments, inter alia, relating to age of marriage of parties, such as 'The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872', 'The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936', 'The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937', 'The Special Marriage Act, 1954', 'The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955', and 'The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969'. The Bill has since been referred to Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports for examination.
