

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3015
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024

CHILD MARRIAGES

3015. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of reports stating that every minute, three girl children are forced into marriage in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of reports of rampant child marriages being solemnized in the State of Kerala, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of such child marriages reported between 2018 to 2024, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard including initiatives for creating awareness in this regard with support of voluntary rights groups and other Government agencies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles statistical data on crimes as reported to it by the States/UTs and publishes the same in its publication "Crime in India". The latest published report pertains to the year 2022. The State/ UT - wise number of cases registered under "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006", including the State of Kerala, as per the NCRB Report from the year 2018 to 2022 is at **Annexure**.

(d): The Government has enacted 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' (PCMA) in order to curb child marriages and to take punitive actions against those associate with child marriages. Section 16 of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA)

authorises the State Government to appoint for the whole State, or such part there of as may be specified, an officer or officers to be known as the 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)' having jurisdiction over the area or areas specified in the notification. This section also specifies the functions to be discharged by CMPOs, which also include advising the individuals or counsel the residents of the locality not to indulge in promoting, helping, aiding or allowing the solemnisation of child marriages; to create awareness about the ill effects of child marriages; and to sensitize the community on the issue of child marriages. The CMPOs function under the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations.

Nevertheless, the Central Government undertakes awareness drives, media campaigns and outreach programs and issues advisories to the States/ UTs from time to time to highlight evil effects of this practice. The Ministry has also written to all States/ UTs to increase the number of CMPOs. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) component under the 'Mission Shakti' umbrella scheme, wherein 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 programs and consultations with stakeholders from time to time in this regard. In addition, Government of India has introduced CHILDLINE with short code 1098, a 24X7 telephone emergency outreach service for children in crisis which responds with suitable interventions to call for any form of assistance which a child requires, including for prevention of child marriages in coordination with police, Child Marriage Protection Officers (CMPOs), District Child Protection Units etc.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3015 to be answered on 09.08.2024 regarding 'Child Marriages'.

The State/ UT - wise number of cases registered under "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" as per the NCRB Report from the year 2018 till 2022 is as under:

Sl.No.	States/ UTs	Cases Reported				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	4	32	19	26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	88	115	138	155	163
4.	Bihar	35	8	5	11	13
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	0	1	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	8	20	15	12	9
8.	Haryana	21	20	33	33	37
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	4	5	5	4
10.	Jharkhand	7	3	3	4	5
11.	Karnataka	73	111	184	273	215
12.	Kerala	18	7	8	12	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3	4	5	4	7
14.	Maharashtra	13	20	50	82	99
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	2	1
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Odisha	22	22	24	64	46
20.	Punjab	6	6	13	8	4
21.	Rajasthan	11	19	3	11	10

22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	67	46	77	169	155
24.	Telangana	24	35	60	57	53
25.	Tripura	1	0	4	1	2
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4	4	12	6	17
27.	Uttarakhand	2	2	9	12	6
28.	West Bengal	70	70	98	105	121
29.	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	1	1	0	0
31.	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	0+	1+	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	1	2	4	2	1
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	1	2	2
34.	Ladakh	-	-	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0	0	1	0
	Total All India	501	525	785	1050	1002

'+' combined data of erstwhile D& N Haveli and Daman & Diu UT