

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN- STARRED QUESTION NO. 5540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

CHILD MARRIAGES IN THE COUNTRY

5540. DR. KADIYAM KAVYA:

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

- (a) the number of reported cases of child marriage in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of initiatives taken by the Government to prevent child marriages and support victims of child marriage;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch any new schemes or programmes to address the issue of child marriage, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to increase awareness about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and to enforce its provisions effectively?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes the data on the number of cases of child marriage registered under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 in its publication 'Crime in India'. The said report is available upto the year 2022 – Crime Head Wise and State/ UT-wise. As per information available with NCRB, the number of cases registered under PCMA during the last three years i.e 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 785, 1050 and 1002 respectively. The State wise details of child marriage cases registered under PCMA during the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 is at **Annexure**.

(b) to (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens, investigation and prosecution of crime against women and children including prohibition of child marriages, rests with the respective State Governments and UT Administrations; they are competent to deal with such offenses/ criminal acts.

Government has enacted PCMA to curb child marriages and to take punitive action against those associated with the child marriages. Section 16 of the PCMA authorises the State Government to appoint for the whole State, or such part thereof 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 include preventing solemnisation of child marriages by taking such action as they may deem fit; to collect evidence for the effective prosecution of persons contravening the provisions of the Act; to advise 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. All these authorities function under the direct administrative control and supervision of respective State Governments and UT Administrations. As such, implementation of the provisions of the Act lies with them.

The Central Government at its level undertakes awareness drives, media campaigns and outreach programs and issues advisories to the States and UTs from time to time to highlight evil effects of this practice. The Ministry has also been writing to all States and UTs to increase the number of CMPOs, as presence of Statutory Officer at local levels results in even more effective public engagement on the subject and prevention of solemnisation of child marriage. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) implements the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) component under the umbrella scheme of 'Mission Shakti', 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 Child Helpline with short code 1098, a toll-free 24X7X365 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, CMPOs, District Child Protection Units etc. The Child Helpline has also been integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) to provide for 24x7x365 emergency response, resources and services.

The Central Government launched 'Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat' campaign on 27th November 2024 which focuses on making the country child marriage free. It is one of the most important imperatives to promote education, skilling, enterprise and entrepreneurship among girls and women to realise the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' through 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach. Under the campaign, a portal '<https://stopchildmarriage.wcd.gov.in>' has been launched to support the States and UTs in raising awareness against child marriage and for effective reporting and prevention of incidences of child marriage. The portal also has facility to provide information to citizens about Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) of all States and UTs.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UN- STARRED QUESTION NO. 5540 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 ASKED BY DR. KADIYAM KAVYA REGARDING 'CHILD MARRIAGES IN THE COUNTRY'

The State/ UT-wise details of child marriage cases registered under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 during the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

SL	State/UT	2020	2021	2022
1	Andhra Pradesh	32	19	26
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Assam	138	155	163
4	Bihar	5	11	13
5	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	15	12	9
8	Haryana	33	33	37
9	Himachal Pradesh	5	5	4
10	Jharkhand	3	4	5
11	Karnataka	184	273	215
12	Kerala	8	12	6
13	Madhya Pradesh	5	4	7
14	Maharashtra	50	82	99
15	Manipur	0	2	1
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0
19	Odisha	24	64	46
20	Punjab	13	8	4
21	Rajasthan	3	11	10
22	Sikkim	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	77	169	155
24	Telangana	60	57	53
25	Tripura	4	1	2
26	Uttar Pradesh	12	6	17
27	Uttarakhand	9	12	6
28	West Bengal	98	105	121
	TOTAL STATE(S)	779	1045	999
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	1	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	0	0	0
32	Delhi	4	2	1
33	Jammu & Kashmir*	1	2	2
34	Ladakh	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	1	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	6	5	3
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	785	1050	1002

Source: Crime in India
