

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 998
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026

PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT, 2006

998. Dr. Mohammad Jawed:

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

- (a) whether child marriage continues to be reported from several parts of the country despite the enforcement of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of reported cases of child marriage, along with the number of prosecutions and convictions during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the schemes, awareness campaigns and community-based interventions being implemented by the Government to prevent child marriage and to ensure girls remain in school; and
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the socio-economic factors contributing to child marriage, if so, the details of the corrective measures being taken to achieve the elimination of child marriage in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5.3?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and publishes data on cases of child marriage registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 in its annual publication Crime in India. The report is available up to the year 2024, as per the information available with NCRB, the number of cases chargesheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons chargesheeted and persons convicted under the PCMA during the last five years in the country, State/UT-wise details is at Annexure.

The Government of India has enacted 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' (PCMA) to prevent and curb child marriages and to take punitive action against those associated with the solemnisation of 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.

Further, to strengthen implementation of the Act and accelerate progress towards elimination of child marriage in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3, the Government launched a national campaign 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' on 27th November 2024, with the objective of making India 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. The campaign aims to create awareness for prevention of child marriage, enhance involvement of parents, families, and communities, strengthen the role and capacity of CMPOs, encourage timely reporting of child marriage cases and identify adolescent girls who are school dropouts or at risk of child marriage to ensure their education, skilling and empowerment.

To commemorate the success of the campaign and further intensify efforts, a 100 Days Special Campaign under Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat was launched on 4th December 2025 to mobilise all stakeholders in a structured and time-bound manner. The 100 Days Special Campaign focused on targeted outreach to institutions, community leaders and service provider, along with mandatory uploading of details of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) on the BVMB Portal.

The campaign followed a spell-wise thematic implementation plan. Spell-I (27th November, 2025 to 31st December, 2025) focused on sensitisation activities in schools, colleges and universities through debates, essay competitions and pledge ceremonies. Spell-II (1st January, 2026 to 31st January, 2026) focused on engagement with religious institutions and marriage-related service providers, including temples, mosques, caterers, tent houses and DJs, to discourage child marriage and display IEC materials. Spell-III (1st February, 2026 to 8th March, 2026) focused on mobilisation of Gram Panchayats and Municipal Wards for passing resolutions declaring their jurisdictions as child marriage free.

A dedicated digital platform, the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat portal (<https://stopchildmarriage.wcd.gov.in>), facilitates reporting of child marriage incidents,

dissemination of information, and registration of pledges. Citizens, institutions, and public representatives can take the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat pledge on the dedicated portal as well as through the MyGov portal, promoting wide participation. Awareness programmes have reached over 12.2 crore citizens, and more than 42 lakh pledges against child marriage have been registered on the portal, reflecting strong community engagement and active participation across the country. The BVMB portal serves as a centralised repository of more than 68,900 CMPOs across States and Union Territories. This provides citizens with an efficient reporting mechanism, where early reporting enables timely intervention to prevent child marriages.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched on 22nd January 2015 to help address Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme has transformed from a policy initiative into a national movement by mobilizing various stakeholders, including government agencies, communities, media, civil society and the public at large. This movement aims not only to address immediate concerns related to sex ratio and gender-based discrimination but also to foster a cultural shift towards valuing the girl child and ensuring her rights and opportunities.

The BBBP scheme focuses on creating mindset and behavioural changes towards the girl child by informing, influencing, motivating, engaging and empowering various stakeholders. To address this, Ministry has developed and circulated to all States and UTs, an operational manual which inter-alia includes a thematic calendar for suggested convergence activities at district level with month wise specific themes for holistic development of the Girl Child and to ensure year-round engagement of girls, their families and communities.

Further, preventing child marriage is a critical mandate under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, wherein a child at imminent risk of marriage before attaining the legal age is defined as a “child in need of care and protection.” The Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), empowered under Sections 27–30 of the Act, are entrusted to take decisions in the best interest of such children, ensuring their safety, dignity, and well-being. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, through its Centrally Sponsored Scheme Mission Vatsalya, supports both institutional and non-institutional care services, including sponsorship, foster care, and after care, to safeguard vulnerable children. Emergency outreach is further strengthened through the 24x7 Child Helpline (1098), integrated with ERSS-112, to provide immediate assistance in cases of child marriage risk. While the Ministry provides policy and programmatic support, the responsibility to prohibit and prevent child marriages lies primarily with the respective State and Union Territory governments, as ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Constitution, making them competent to act against such offences under existing laws.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 998 FOR ANSWER ON 24.07.2026 REGARDING 'PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT, 2006'

State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act during 2020-2021													
SL	State/UT	2020						2021					
		CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	Andhra Pradesh	32	8	0	23	28	0	19	10	0	18	32	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	138	67	0	200	86	0	155	93	0	266	128	0
4	Bihar	5	6	0	9	9	0	11	7	0	11	15	0
5	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	15	15	0	66	80	0	12	12	0	37	57	0
8	Haryana	33	24	0	63	61	0	33	27	0	67	51	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	5	4	0	20	26	0	5	4	0	13	13	0
10	Jharkhand	3	2	1	6	6	5	4	2	0	3	3	0
11	Karnataka	184	103	0	273	267	0	273	237	3	544	536	3
12	Kerala	8	5	0	20	19	0	12	9	0	32	29	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	5	6	1	11	16	1	4	4	0	5	11	0
14	Maharashtra	50	32	0	88	111	0	82	72	0	142	303	0
15	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	24	32	0	20	38	0	64	54	0	51	77	0
20	Punjab	13	4	1	21	6	1	8	6	0	13	17	0
21	Rajasthan	3	3	0	4	4	0	11	9	0	27	31	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	77	65	0	267	173	0	169	68	0	451	191	0
24	Telangana	60	35	2	85	104	9	57	65	7	118	153	16
25	Tripura	4	2	0	2	3	0	1	3	0	0	6	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	12	11	1	24	29	3	6	4	0	13	16	0
27	Uttarakhand	9	9	0	9	9	0	12	11	0	23	45	0
28	West Bengal	98	67	0	87	77	0	105	109	0	141	145	0
	TOTAL STATE(S)	779	501	6	1298	1162	19	1045	806	10	1977	1859	19
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

32	Delhi	4	3	0	7	5	0	2	1	0	12	12	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	4	0
34	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	6	4	0	12	8	0	5	3	0	17	17	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	785	505	6	1310	1170	19	1050	809	10	1994	1876	19

State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act during 2022-2024																			
S L	State/UT	2022						2023						2024					
		CR	CC S	CO N	PA R	PC S	PC V	CR	CC S	CO N	PA R	PC S	PC V	CR	CC S	CO N	PA R	PC S	PC V
1	Andhra Pradesh	26	19	0	78	66	0	45	26	0	25	111	0	21	19	1	18	57	4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	163	128	0	316	224	0	526 7	508 9	94	571 4	575 3	98	471	300	191	589	395	199
4	Bihar	13	14	0	28	26	0	13	8	1	17	14	1	22	11	0	27	28	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	44	44	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	9	9	0	25	40	0	8	8	0	38	42	0	9	9	1	21	43	5
8	Haryana	37	23	3	79	63	5	28	20	1	55	51	1	28	19	1	67	62	2
9	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	0	3	13	0	1	0	1	2	0	4	2	1	0	0	2	0
10	Jharkhand	5	2	0	2	2	0	5	5	0	15	15	0	5	2	0	9	9	0
11	Karnataka	215	173	0	510	502	0	143	200	2	332	484	3	152	128	3	252	405	6
12	Kerala	6	6	0	10	12	0	4	4	0	1	12	0	8	8	0	25	36	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	7	6	0	21	24	0	4	5	0	3	16	0	9	9	1	21	51	2
14	Maharashtra	99	89	0	179	355	0	93	86	0	57	300	0	72	61	1	77	187	2
15	Manipur	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	46	40	2	48	91	2	57	53	0	52	115	0	35	19	0	30	37	0
20	Punjab	4	3	0	9	7	0	11	5	1	27	6	1	7	9	0	11	15	0
21	Rajasthan	10	8	0	39	45	0	5	3	4	23	23	9	3	1	2	0	10	5
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	155	108	1	363	249	1	174	147	0	424	316	0	408	267	2	920	593	3
24	Telangana	53	47	6	7	103	15	33	30	2	19	69	2	83	83	0	47	210	0
25	Tripura	2	2	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	3	2	0	0	2	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	17	15	1	48	61	1	15	13	0	61	73	0	7	7	0	37	37	0
27	Uttarakhand	6	6	0	2	6	0	5	1	1	6	2	7	8	4	0	14	18	0

28	West Bengal	121	99	6	209	197	6	118	102	0	183	292	0	132	117	5	123	159	5
	TOTAL STATE(S)	999	800	19	1976	2089	30	6033	5806	107	7055	7697	126	1490	1081	208	2335	2403	233
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Delhi	1	0	0	9	0	0	1	1	0	4	1	0	4	4	1	5	6	1
33	Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	0	7	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	2	2	0
34	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	12	12	0	1	1	0	18	18	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	3	2	1	16	9	1	5	3	0	16	13	0	9	6	1	25	26	1
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	1002	802	20	1992	2098	31	6038	5809	107	7071	7710	126	1499	1087	209	2360	2429	234
