

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2002
REPORTS OF CHILD MARRIAGES
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of reports of child marriages received during the last three years, year-wise, in Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively;
- (b) the total number of child marriages prevented from being performed in the above States during the same period;
- (c) the reasons for child marriages being performed; and
- (d) the action taken against the officials who failed to prevent child marriages?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE : (SHRI K. JANAKRISHNAMURTHI)

(a), (b) & (d) : The Government does not maintain data on child marriages as the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 is being administered and implemented by the State Governments/Union territory Administrations. However, cases of child marriage in some States have come to the notice of the Government. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978. As per the amended Act, the minimum age for marriage was fixed at 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls and offences under the Act were made cognizable. However, the provisions of the Act are intended to restrain and not to invalidate such marriages.