

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3432

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004

MARRIAGE OF UNDER AGE GIRLS

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 8.9 percent of Indian girls get married before the age of 13, according to the studies by the Population Council , India ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total number of such marriages conducted in each State in the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to impose a ban on such under age marriages among the Indian girls?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The study which has been referred to, is a paper which has been published in Economic and Political Weekly, October 11-17, 2003, Vol.XXXVIII No.41. The study reveals that 8.9 percent of girls were married by age 13. However, it does not refer to current situation. 12.1 per cent currently married women aged 25-29 got married by age 13. The percentage drops to 8.9 for women aged 20-24 and it further declines to 4.7 per cent for women aged 15-19. In other words, with time, percentage of women getting married by age 13 is declining and in 2000, the percentage of such women was only 5 percent. A statement showing state wise percentage of women aged 25-49 married by exact age of 13 as per National Family Health Survey, 1998-99 is Annexed.

(c): A Bill titled the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 2004 to prevent child marriages.

Annexure

Percentage of women age 25-49 married by exact age of 13 years

State	Age 13
India	15.4
North	
Delhi	4.7
Haryana	10.1
Himachal Pradesh	2.1
Jammu & Kashmir	6.0
Punjab	1.2
Rajasthan	30.1
Central	
Madhya Pradesh	30.8
Uttar Pradesh	27.7
East	
Bihar	23.0
Orissa	2.8

West Bengal	9.0
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Northeast

Arunachal Pradesh	3.7
Assam	3.4
Manipur	0.3
Meghalaya	1.1
Mizoram	0.1
Nagaland	0.6
Sikkim	2.4

West

Goa	1.7
Gujarat	8.4
Maharashtra	11.3

South

Andhra Pradesh	22.1
Karnataka	9.1
Kerala	0.9
Tamil Nadu	2.6

Source National Family Health Survey-II 1998-99