

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:881  
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004  
CHILD MARRIAGE  
Kusmaria Dr. Ramkrishna

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether child marriage is being rampantly solmanized even today in several parts of the country especially among tribal, poor and backward people;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is aware that there are several discrepancies and contradictions by the laws that have been enforced by the various State Governments and that there is need to improve it;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is considering to make effective laws in this regard to put a check on child marriage; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATIKANTI SINGH)

(a) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of cases registered under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 were 89 (1996), 78 (1997), 56 (1998), 58 (1999), 92 (2000) and 85 (2001). The Act is being administered by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(b) No, Sir. As per the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, which was amended in 1978, the minimum age for marriage is 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls and offences under the Act are cognizable. The provisions of the Act are intended to restrain and not to invalidate such marriages.

(c)&(d) The National Commission for Women and the National Human Rights Commission have recommended certain amendments to the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929. As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Law & Justice, the same have been circulated to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for obtaining their comments.