

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4087

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004

STRINGENT MEASURES TO STOP SHORT TERM MARRIAGES

Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked the External Affairs Ministry to issue instructions to all embassies to ensure that `Muttah` or short term marriages are stopped totally and those indulging in such practices are dealt with strictly; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to and such short term marriages in India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Diplomatic Missions in Gulf Countries do check visa applications to ascertain the genuineness of the intended purpose of the visit. Recently they have been once again instructed to keep a close watch on this issue. The Embassies of the countries of the Gulf region in India have also been appraised of this matter. Ministry of External Affairs also suggested to the National Commission for Women that it would be useful to encourage NGOs working in this field to play a parallel, active role, especially in States where there is a large incidence of `Muttah` marriages.