

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1003

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006

CHILD MARRIAGES

Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar; Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .; Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

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

- (a) whether the child marriage is still prevalent in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases have come to the notice of the Government for the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents;
- (d) whether the Government bringing a new Act in place of Marriage Restraint Act, 1929;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) As per information received from National Crime Record Bureau, the problem of Child Marriage is occurring in many parts of the Country. As per record the State/UT-wise cases registered, charge-sheeted, trial completed, convicted during 2003 to 2005 are enclosed at Annexure - I. On the basis of Monthly Crime Statistics, the figures of cases registered under the Act during 2006 (upto available months) are enclosed at Annexure - II.

(c) In order to prohibit the practice of child Marriage, appropriate amendments have been proposed in the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004 is processed for consideration and passing during the current Parliament Session. Also, awareness generation and sensitization programmes are being undertaken for this purpose.

(d),(e)&(f) Yes, Sir. The Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2004 which was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Group of Ministers considered the recommendation of the Committee and the approval of the Cabinet has been obtained for amendments in the Bill. The notices to Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing of the Bill and amendments are under process. The Bill is likely to be considered during the current Session of Parliament.