

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2013

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007

CHILD MARRIAGE

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Jha Shri Raghunath;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Manoj Dr. K.S.;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the report of the National Family Health Survey III as reported in the Times of India dated February 23, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal/suggestions from the UNICEF to bring down the incidents of child marriage prominently taking place in some of the States;
- (d) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the effective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to effectively implement the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1976?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) As per National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III) nearly 45% of women in the country are married before the age of 18 years. Report also show that the proportion of child marriages are higher in rural areas. Percentage of cases occurring in States like Jharkhand (61%), Rajasthan (57%), Andhra Pradesh (55%), Madhya Pradesh (53%), Uttar Pradesh (53%), West Bengal (53%) and Chhattisgarh (52%) reflect a high incidence of girls married below 18 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (No. 6 of 2007) has been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007. Simultaneously, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 has been repealed.