

a ban legally on the pre-natal sex determination test to protect the girl child;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken or propose to take to ban the pre-natal sex determination tests?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). A Bill entitled "Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulations and Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1991 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Irrigation Projects

5397. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has conveyed its opinion on the non-performance of many irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of World Bank finance for such projects;

(d) whether any such project is located in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). The World Bank undertakes various Review Missions during the implementation of the projects intended to accelerate the

financial and physical progress and take mid-course corrective actions. Since irrigation projects are generally spread over for a duration of 5 years and more and implementation normally depends on various natural and administrative factors, extension of time is given in most of the projects on year to year basis by the Bank on the recommendations of the Government of India. Review Missions take stock of the situations on such occasions also. In these circumstances, there had been some instances when the Bank has conveyed its opinion on the under-utilization of the external assistance resulting into slow physical progress in some projects. The major reasons for this comprise initial implementation slippage, delay in approval of local competitive bidding, State Governments' financial crunch, imposition of certain conditions by the Bank such as carrying out studies, resettlement and rehabilitation aspects, natural calamities and appreciation of donor currencies in terms of rupees.

(c) As regards World Bank assistance to the irrigation projects for 11 projects, out of the World Bank assistance of US \$ 1,609 million, there has been cumulative utilization of US \$ 692.7 million.

(d) and (e). In Andhra Pradesh, owing to delayed progress and some works pending to be completed in Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) and Sriram Sagar Right Bank Canal (SRBC) known as Andhra Pradesh Irrigation-II Project, the World Bank expressed concern.

Blindness Control Programme

5398. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH