

**Female Infanticide**

1411. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

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

(a) whether the prevalence of female infanticide is in vogue in Tamil Nadu and in various other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted, in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the prevalence of this deplorable practice; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (d) The Department of Women and Child Development has sponsored seven independent sample studies in nine states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh to assess the size and magnitude of the problem of female infanticide. Reports received have revealed that female infanticide is practiced amongst a few communities and in certain pockets of the country. Infanticide is a crime under the Indian Penal Code. The persons found involved in such acts are proceeded against under the law. The Central Government has also enacted the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to curb the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus leading to female foeticide. Besides, various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of women and the girl child. Attempts are also being made to project a positive image of the girl child so as to bring about changes in societal attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to the girl child. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 A.D.) for the Girl Child focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the Integrated Child Development Services structure. Some States have also launched specific schemes to raise the status of the girl child.

**Coast Guards**

1412. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to increase the strength of the Coast Guards along the Tamil Nadu Border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the survey conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Coast Guard has been maintaining a close surveillance in the area. Based on its assessment of future requirements for force levels, two inceptor boats were recently commissioned. Further strengthening is under consideration

**Acquisition of Remote Controlled Pilotless Aircrafts by Pakistan**

1413. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has acquired sophisticated remote controlled pilotless aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the countries which have supplied such aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) As per available information Pakistan has acquired remote controlled pilotless aircraft of Chinese origin. The aircraft are piston engined, remote controlled and pilotless with a maximum speed of 205 km/hr. and can fly to a maximum altitude of 3200 metres.

**UGC Coaching Scheme**

1414. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the UGC Coaching Scheme for students from backward classes and other weaker sections;

(b) the names of universities which are operating the scheme during 1996-97;

(c) the number of students being coached in each of the university, Examination-wise;

(d) the financial allocation made for 1996-97, University-wise; and

(e) the actual expenditure incurred during the last three years, and during April-December, 1996, University-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.