

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1648

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001

FEMALE FOETICIDE

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Supreme Court the States have failed to curb female foeticides;

(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court has stated that there is total slackness on the part of administration in implementing the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse)

(e) Amendment Act, 1994;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (c): The Hon`ble Supreme Court in its order dated 4th May, 2001 observed that to a large extent the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has not been implemented by the Central Government or by the State Governments. Accordingly the Court issued certain directions to the Central Government, Central Supervisory Board, State Governments/UT Administration and Appropriate Authorities.

The Hon`ble Court has inter-alia directed that the Central Government should create public awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide. The Act should be implemented with all vigor and zeal. The intervening period between two meetings of the Advisory Committee constituted under the Act to aid and advise the Appropriate Authorities should not exceed 60 days. The meetings of the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) constituted under the Act should be held at least once in six months. The Government should appoint those persons in the CSB who can genuinely spare time for implementation of the Act. The CSB should review and monitor implementation of the Act. It should issue directions to all States and UTs to furnish quarterly returns on implementation and working of the Act containing the following information:-

1. Survey of Genetic Counselling Centres, Genetic Laboratories and Genetic Clinics including bodies using ultrasound machines.
2. Registration of the above bodies.
3. Action taken against the non-registered bodies operating in violation of the Act including search and seizure of records.
4. Complaints received by the Appropriate Authorities under the Act and action taken pursuance thereto.
5. Number and nature of awareness campaigns conducted and results flowing therefrom.

The Court has also directed that the CSB should examine the necessity to amend the Act keeping in mind emerging technologies and difficulties encountered in implementation of the Act. The Board should also require Medical Professional Bodies/Associations to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide. The State/UTs should publish the list of Appropriate Authorities in print and electronic media and should create public awareness against the practice of pre-natal sex determination and female foeticide through advertisements, print, electronic media, by hoardings and other appropriate means.

Fully empowered Appropriate Authorities and Advisory Committees at districts and sub-district levels should be appointed by the States and UTs.

The Appropriate Authorities should take prompt action against any person or bodies issuing advertisements in violation of the Act, operating without a valid certificate of registration and should furnish the quarterly returns.

(d) The following actions/activities have, inter alia, been undertaken for effective implementation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 /Rules and compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court:-

- 1) Appropriate Authorities and Advisory Committees have been established under the Act in all States and UTs.
- 2) In most of bigger states Appropriate Authorities and Advisory Committees have been established at district as well as sub-district level.
- 3) The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) has also constituted two Sub-Committees, two Groups and one Implementation and Monitoring Team for overseeing the implementation of the Act/Rules as well as compliance of the orders of the Supreme Court.
- 4) The Technical Sub-Committees has finalized the amendments to the Act/Rules keeping in view the emerging technologies and difficulties experienced in implementation of the Act/Rules.
- 5) Help of Non-Governmental Organizations, Medical Associations and other bodies is also being taken to create public awareness about the provisions of the Act/Rules, Orders of the Supreme Court for eradication of the evil of female foeticide.
- 6) Conventions, workshops and meetings are being held regularly to create awareness about the provisions of the Act/Rules.
- 7) Public awareness is also being created through print media, electronic media, hoardings and other means.
- 8) More than two lakh doctors all over the country have been addressed to extend their help and cooperation for implementation of the provisions of the Act/Rules and Orders of the Supreme Court.