

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5420
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
GIRL CHILD CRADLE SCHEME
S. MURUGESAN

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of Girl Child Cradle Scheme in force in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the scheme is likely to be extended to other States with suitable assistance from his Ministry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. In 1992, the Government of Tamil Nadu started a scheme called 'Cradle Baby Scheme' to counter the menace of female infanticide prevalent in certain parts of the State. Under this scheme, cradles were placed at vital places such as hospitals, primary health centres, orphanages etc., to rescue the female children abandoned by their biological mothers due to various socio-economic reasons.

This scheme has now been revived and revitalised as the evil practice of female infanticide is reportedly still prevalent in certain parts of the State. Reception Centres have been established at Madurai, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Theni, which are functioning 24 hours a day and are looked after by Warden-cum-supervisor, a Nurse, two Ayahs and a Watchman. The Reception Centres are provided with required medicines, milk powder, feeding bottles etc. to cater to the needs of the babies. The services of doctors in the nearby Government hospitals are also made use of in these Reception Centres.

(c)&(d) The practice of female infanticide is reportedly prevalent in only a few States. The concerned State Governments have launched specific schemes and programmes for the protection, development and welfare of girl child. The Government of India have, however, taken many steps to eradicate the practice of female infanticide and foeticide which include the enactment of Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994; the implementation of a scheme called 'Balika Samridhi Yojana' with objective of raising the overall status of girl child; institutionalisation of a special set of interventions for adolescent girls through the Integrated Child Development Services structure, etc.

(e) Does not arise.