

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:136
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
BAN ON SEX DETERMINATION TEST
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

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

- (a) whether despite ban on sex determination test a large number of cases of female foeticide are on the increase in the country;
- (b) whether this practice is prevalent in educated society who make the maximum use of sex determination technology;
- (c) whether Government propose to enforce the existing law more stringently or propose to introduce fresh laws for imposing harsher punishment on those who indulge in sex determination tests; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 136 FOR 27.11.2002

No specific data is available on female foeticide because parties resort to this practice secretly in connivance with each other. However, the child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years has fallen from 945 girls per 1000 boys in 1991 to 927 girls per 1000 boys in 2001. Elimination of female foetus could be one of the reasons for the decline in child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years.

Census 2001 has revealed that child sex ratio is more adverse to the girl child in the affluent regions of the country like Punjab (793), Haryana (820), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (865), Gujarat (878), Himachal Pradesh (897) despite the higher female literacy rates in these States as compared to All India where Punjab has a female literacy rate of 63.55%, in Haryana it is 56.31%, in Chandigarh 76.65%, in Delhi 75%, in Gujarat 58.6% and in Himachal Pradesh 68.08%.

In order to check the practice of female foeticide, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. This Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus so that the practice of female foeticide could be contained. A Bill to amend the said Act has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 25.7.02 which inter-alia provides for more stringent punishments against violations of the provisions of the Act such as increase in fine from rupees fifty thousand to rupees one lakh and suspension/cancellation of registration of Medical Practitioners as provided in the amendments proposed to sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 22 vide clause 19 of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002 to serve as a deterrent for minimizing violations of the Act.