

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
DECLINE IN SEX RATIO
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

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

- (a) whether there is an alarming decline in the sex ratio in the age group of 0-5 years in the country, particularly in urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to give incentives on the birth of girl child to bridge the gap in sex ratio;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other schemes being formulated by the Government to maintain the sex ratio?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 52 FOR 23.7.2003

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Census 2001 has revealed that sex ratio (number of girls per 1000 boys) in the age group 0-6 years has declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001.

The Census 2001, further reveals that the situation is adverse in respect of child population in the age group 0-6, particularly in the urban areas of Punjab (789), Haryana (809), Gujarat (827), Chandigarh (844), Himachal Pradesh (858), and Delhi (866). The State/UT wise position of the sex ratio prevailing in the age group 0-6 years is at Annexure.

However, the provisional figures of Census 2001 have revealed that sex ratio in the country has improved in the last decade. The national figures of 927 females per 1000 males in the Census 1991 has increased to 933 in 2001. In contrast, the child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. The encouraging trend in the overall sex ratio during 1991-2001 was marred by the decline of 18 points in the sex ratio of children below the age of 6 years.

Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low level of sex ratio are: -

- son preference;
- neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age;
- female infanticide;
- female foeticide;
- higher maternal mortality; and
- male bias in enumeration of population.

(c) to (e) There is a proposal to introduce a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. The scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) and the other ongoing Maternal Health Schemes, but will also introduce several new initiatives. Among other things, cash assistance of Rs. 500/- for birth of male child and Rs. 1000/- for birth of female child to expectant women belonging to below the Poverty Line families up to two live births will be given.

Further, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994, has been enacted by the Parliament with a view to prohibiting sex selection before or after conception, and for regulation of pre-natal diagnostic techniques and for prevention of their misuse in sex determination leading to female foeticide and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Act, 2002, has brought the technique of pre-conception sex selection and use of ultra sound machines within the ambit of this Act, and made punishments prescribed under the Act more stringent. It also empowers the Appropriate Authorities for search, seizure and sealing of the machines, equipments and records of the violators.

The Balika Samridhi Yojana to promote survival and care of the girl child is being implemented under which a post-birth grant

amounting to Rs. 500/- is awarded after the birth of girl child. The benefit is restricted to 2 girl children in each household irrespective of the total number of children in the household. When the girl child starts attending the school, she becomes entitled to annual scholarship for each successfully completed year of schooling from Class 1 to Class 10. Both the above benefits are applicable to a girl child born on and after 15/08/1997. A portion of the post-birth grant of Rs. 500/-, or the amounts of the annual scholarships eligible for deposit can be permitted to be applied toward the sole purpose of paying the premium on an insurance policy in the name of the girl child under the Bhagyashree Balika Kalyan Bima Yojana.

ANNEXURE

SEX RATIO (FEMALE PER THOUSAND MALES) IN THE AGE GROUP (0-6)

S.No. India and States/UTs Census

1991 2001

	Total	Rural	Urban	
INDIA	945	927	934	903

I. Major States (Population > 20 million)

1. Andhra Pradesh	975	964	965	958
2. Assam	975	964	967	931
3. Bihar	953	938	940	924
4. Chhatisgarh	984	975	982	941
5. Gujarat	928	878	905	827
6. Haryana	879	820	824	809
7. Jharkhand	979	966	973	931
8. Karnataka	960	949	954	939
9. Kerala	958	963	964	958
10. Madhya Pradesh	941	929	941	906
11. Maharashtra	946	917	923	908
12. Orissa	967	950	954	927
13. Punjab	875	793	795	789
14. Rajasthan	916	909	914	886
15. Tamil Nadu	948	939	931	951
16. Uttar Pradesh	927	916	922	880
17. West Bengal	967	963	967	948

II. Minor States/UTs (Population <20 Million)

1. Arunachal Pradesh	982	961	957	981
2. Delhi	915	865	853	866
3. Goa	964	933	948	919
4. Himachal Pradesh	951	897	900	858
5. Jammu & Kashmir	NA	937	952	872
6. Manipur	974	961	956	980
7. Meghalaya	986	975	977	964

8. Mizoram	969	971	978	961
9. Nagaland	993	975	983	935
10. Sikkim	965	986	991	925
11. Tripura	967	975	978	948
12. Uttaranchal	948	906	914	874

III. Union Territories

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands#	973	965	976	940
2. Chandigarh	899	845	854	844
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli#	1013	973	995	885
4. Daman & Diu	958	925	920	935
5. Lakshadweep	941	974	1010	920
6. Pondicherry	963	958	971	951

Source: Census of India Provisional Population