

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1188
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
INFANT MORTALITY RATE
M. CHINNASAMY

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

- (a) the National average infant mortality rate, at present;
- (b) the ratio of male in comparison to female child below 5 years at present in Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the female infanticide?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

- (a) As per the Sample Registration System the Infant Mortality Rate at the National level was estimated to be 72 per thousand live births, in 1998.
- (b) As per the estimates of Technical Committee on Population Projection the population of children below 5 years in the State of Tamil Nadu is projected to be 4815 thousand as on 1st March, 2000 out of which 2473 thousand are male and 2343 thousand are females; ratio being 947 females against 1000 males.
- (c) Infanticide is a cognizable offence and is dealt with under existing laws. To reverse the sex-ratio which is adverse to females, Government has enacted the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 on 1st January 1996. This Act regulates and prevents the misuse of modern pre-natal diagnostic techniques for performing selective abortion of female fetuses. A campaign through mass media and other means to reduce female feticide and infanticide is also under implementation.