

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:972

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005

PNDT ACT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Preconception and Pre-natal Diagnostics Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act ,1994 has been in force for the last 10 years but the malpractices of sex determination have not stopped;
- (b) if so, whether the National and State level NGOs expressed concern over the adverse sex ratio;
- (c) whether the said NGOs have also expressed concern over the poor implementation of PNDT Act; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes Sir, the Government is aware of the situation and there are 24 ongoing cases of sex determination / communication of sex of the foetus as reported by States and Union Territories.

(b), (c) & (d) The Government, National Commission for Women as well as the NGOs are concerned over the adverse sex ratio and a number of steps have been taken by the Government to remedy the situation.

The implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed at State, district as well as at sub-district levels. The States and Union Territories have been requested to ensure wide publicity to the provisions of the Act and Rules and to effectively implement the same in letter and spirit. As per the reports received from the States and Union Territories as on 28.2.2005, 25770 Units have been registered in the country, 300 Court/Police cases ongoing and 33 Ultra sound machines seized/sealed as part of implementation of the PNDT Act.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behaviour and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also been organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. The Government of India has launched `Save the Girl Child Campaign` with the view to lesson son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls.

A National Monitoring Committee has been constituted at the Centre to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States. Constant inspection and survey of the Centres using ultrasound machines are being undertaken by most of the States.