

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2113

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

FEMALE FOETICIDE

Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap;Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran;Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) whether the violations of PNDT Act are increasing day by day in various parts of the country in the form of sex determination tests;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases which come to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken against the doctors and clinics who are involved therein;
- (d) whether the Government has recently set up a Committee to look into the violations of PNDT Act, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10.1.07;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions given by the Committee, if any; and
- (f) other measures taken/ proposed to be taken to discourage female foeticide?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The number of ongoing court cases filed against violators of PC&PNDT Act/Rules, as on 1.3.2007 are 256, out of which 58 are related to the cases filed in respect of communication of sex of the foetus. The State wise details of cases filed are annexed. The cases are in the various stages of hearing in the respective courts.

In Punjab, registration of a doctor has been suspended for five years by State Medical Council of Punjab. In Haryana, a doctor & his assistant in the district of Palwal were sentenced to simple imprisonment for a period of two years and to pay a fine of Rs. 5000/- each under PC & PNDT Act.

(d) & (e) Yes sir. A committee has been set up recently under the chairmanship of the Secretary (H&FW) to look into the issues.

(f) Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practices of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television and print media units. The voluntary organizations have been funded to create awareness on the issue at state/region/district/block levels. Cooperation has been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. Professional Medical Organization was aided for organization of sensitization workshops for its members. Funds were provided for organizing Padyatras by Swami Agnivesh. UNFPA along with Art of Living Foundation had organized multi faith religious meet on the issue. Training of trainers from State Judicial Academies was done by National Judicial Academy (Bhopal). "Frequently Asked Questions" about the PNDT Act useful to the lay persons, medical community and Appropriate Authorities have been developed for wide circulation.