

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
RISE IN SEX RATIO
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the rate of foeticide and the difference in the ratio of Boy-Girl are on rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to constitute any Committee to address this issue;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the Committee; and
- (e) the time by which the Committee is likely to be constituted and submit its report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e): The Sex Ratio (SR) (number of females per thousand males) has increased from 927 to 933 from 1991 to 2001. However, the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) has declined from 945 to 927 during the same period. State-wise SR and CSR is annexed. The Government has taken action on strengthening the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT Act) as well as creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve the Child Sex Ratio in the Country are constitution of the Central Supervisory Board under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, whose function, inter alia, is

- (i) to advise the Central Government on policy matters relating to use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, sex selection techniques and against their misuse;
- (ii) to review and monitor implementation of the Act and rules made thereunder and recommend to the Central Government changes in the said Act and rules;
- (iii) to create public awareness against the practice of pre-conception sex selection and pre-natal determination of sex of foetus leading to female foeticide; constitution of the National Inspection & Monitoring Committee for undertaking field visits periodically across the country, and constitution of the National Support & Monitoring Cell for effective implementation of the Act, training of Judiciary, publication of Annual Reports, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), On-Line Complaint facility on the Ministry's Website, organising sensitisation workshops/seminars, launching of 'Save the Girl Child' campaign, seeking cooperation from the NGOs/religious leaders, etc.. Further, under the National Rural Health Mission, Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) are being sensitised on the issue. Also, funds have been provided to all States/UTs under the Rural Child Health programme for implementation of the Act and related activities.