

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:122

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010

DECLINE IN SEX-RATIO

Namdhari Shri Inder Singh;Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the sex ratio in the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the incidents of female foeticide are on the rise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save girls from this menace in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 122 FOR 5TH MARCH, 2010

(a)&(b): Data on sex ratio is obtained through the Census, which is conducted after every 10 years. During the 1991 Census, sex ratio in the country was 927 females per 1000 males, which increased to 933 females per 1000 males during the 2001 Census.State-wise data on sex ratio as per 1991 and 2001 census rounds is at Annexure-I.

Data on sex ratio at birth based on the three-yearly moving average is available from the Sample Registration System (SRS) data.The sex ratio at birth for India for the periods 2004-06, 2005-07 and 2006-08 is 892,901 and 904 respectively.State-wise details are at Annexure-II.

(c)&(d): No specific data on the exact number of female foeticide cases in the country is available as these are conducted illegally with the active connivance of the service providers and the persons seeking such services.

(e) Government of India has enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PC&PNDT Act, 1994), under which stringent punishments have been prescribed for using pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques to illegally determine sex of the foetus. The Appropriate Authorities at District and State levels are empowered to search, seize and seal the machines, equipments and records of the violators. Sale of certain diagnostic equipment is restricted only to the bodies registered under the Act.