

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5019  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010  
BAN ON WEBSITES  
Singh Chaudhary Lal

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to ban the websites still advertising 'Simple methods for determination of sex of foetus' in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the International Diagnostic Centres are encouraging couples to send the expecting mother's blood samples and providing them report about sex of the foetus through e-mail; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) and (b): The Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), an authority under the then section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 had directed through letter dated 16th December, 2008 to M/s Google India, M/s Yahoo India and M/s Microsoft (MSN Search Engine) to ensure that no advertisements or sponsored links in respect of sex selection appear on search results on their websites. M/s Google India, M/s Yahoo India and M/s Microsoft responded to such directions. M/s Yahoo India and MSN Search Engine stated that their search engine do not provide any sponsored links within India on sex selection or determination. Also they take due diligence to enforce such restrictions. M/s Google has responded that their search engine do not allow users from India to search websites relating to prenatal sex determination. In case of an inadvertent slippage, and upon being notified of the presence of a non-compliant advertisement, a prompt and effective action is taken in disabling such sites by them. M/s Google has reinforced their commitment through their letter dated 10 February, 2010. They have very clearly stated that whenever an advertiser chooses to target users in India, the access to such advertisements is blocked to users with Indian IP address and users searching on the India domain loggers [www.google.co.in](http://www.google.co.in). In addition, Google has developed technology that help to implement the advertisement policy by preventing advertisements from appearing on certain "keywords" on the Google website. The list of such keywords is constantly upgraded and there are on-going efforts to ensure that the list is comprehensive. The list of such keywords which have been blocked from triggering or sponsored results include - sex determination, determination of sex/gender, male/female selection method, choose the gender of your baby, gender determination, gender pre-selection, gender prediction, gender selection, sex pre-selection, sex prediction, sex selection etc.

(c) (d) & (e): The Customs Department has suitably alerted its field formations to seize the imported "Gender Testing Kits".

Further, it has been decided to amend the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act, 1994 and the Rules/Regulations framed thereunder suitably to provide for establishment of a Registration Mechanism in the matter of import of 'Gender Testing Kits' and other similar medical kits.