

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1024
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011
CHILD SEX RATIO
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government is improving the child sex ratio by empowering women and sustainability in every sphere;
- (b) if so, the details thereof State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the funds utilised/to be utilised in this regard during the Eleventh Plan period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b) Yes. With a view to improving the child sex ratio, Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy entailing schemes and programmes and awareness generation/advocacy measures which are outlined as under:

- i. The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution has made it mandatory for the states to reserve 33 percent of the seats for women in the panchayati raj institutions, to ensure their formal involvement in the development and political processes at the grass root level.
- ii. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme provides a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services through the platform of the Anganwadi Centre.
- iii. A number of States are implementing schemes to incentivise the birth of a girl child and encourage families to place a premium on her education and development through Conditional Cash Transfer schemes, including Laadli Scheme of Delhi and Haryana Govts., Mukhya Mantri Kanya Suraksha Yojna of Bihar Govt., Bhagyalakshmi Scheme of Karnataka, Ladli Lakshmi Yojana of MP, Balika Samridhi Yojana of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, Balri Rakshak Yojana in Punjab and Kanyadan scheme of Madhya Pradesh.
- iv. The other schemes introduced include SABLA (Scheme for empowering adolescent girls), STEP (Support to Training & Employment programme for women), WWH (Working women's Hostel), SWADHAR (Scheme for women in difficult circumstances), The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women), Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY), CMB (Conditional Maternity Benefit) etc.
- v. Strengthening of the legal framework and strict enforcement of laws related to women, including Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 etc.
- vi. Government of India has also initiated schemes to provide for free education to girls from standard VI to XII. Further, any girl who is the only girl child of her parents will be eligible to receive a scholarship of Rs. 2000 per month to pursue her Post-Graduate education in any recognized institution of higher learning in the country.
- vii. The Swaranjayanti Gram Swaroggar Yojana (SGSY) provides for self-employment of the rural poor, including special safeguards by way of reserving 40% benefits for women.

Andhra Pradesh has conducted sensitisation workshops and IEC activities to address the skewed child sex ratio in the State.

A budgetary allocation of Rs.47 crores has been provided for Information, Education Communication activities under PNDDT for the Xth Plan.

(c) Additionally, an expenditure of Rs. 128.63 lakhs has been incurred by States for PNDDT activities under the National Rural Health Mission.