

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3104  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011  
REPORT ON FEMALE FOETICIDE  
McLeod Smt. Ingrid

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

- (a) whether a global survey has been conducted by Thomson Reuters Foundation on the prevalence of female foeticide;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Thomas Reuters Foundation survey is based on the overall perception of 213 gender experts from 5 continents on six key risks - sexual violence, non-sexual violence, cultural or religious factors, discrimination and lack of access to resources and trafficking. India is ranked 4th in the global survey.

(c) I. The National Charter for Children was adopted in 2004 as a reiteration of the Government's commitment to children's rights to survival, development and protection. It specifically refers to the obligation of the State and community to undertake all appropriate measures to address the problems of infanticide and foeticide and other issues relating to the survival of the girl child.

II. The National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 has identified twelve key areas that require utmost attention, including abolition of female foeticide, infanticide and child marriage and ensuring survival, development and protection of the girl child.

III. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been established under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The NCPCR is mandated to protect, promote and defend child rights in the country, to enquire into violation of child rights and to recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases.

IV. The Government has enacted the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, further amended in 2003. The Act is a comprehensive legislation which provides for the prohibition of sex selection, before and after conception, and for regulation of prenatal diagnostic techniques.

The recent initiatives undertaken by Government of India for effective implementation of the Act include the following:

# Rule 11 (2) of the PC & PNDT Rules, 1996 has been amended to provide for confiscation of unregistered machines and further punishment of organizations which fail to register themselves under the Act.

# The National Inspection and Monitoring Committee has been reconstituted and apart from inspections, further empowered to oversee follow-up action by Appropriate Authorities against organizations found guilty of violations under the Act during inspections.

# Operational guidelines for PNDT-NGO Grant in Aid Scheme have been revised to ensure targeted use of resources for effective implementation of the Act.

# Awareness is being created on the issue through various Information, Education and Communication (IEC) mechanisms, sensitization of stake holders including judiciary and public prosecutors, holding of workshops/seminars and community awareness through auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), etc.