

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2270  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011  
PROMOTION OF GENDER BALANCE  
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**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) the steps taken /being taken by the Government to promote gender balance in the country including rural and urban areas of Haryana; and

(b) the funds sanctioned, released and utilized by the State Governments during the last three years and the current year, year –wise alongwith the response of the State Government in this regards?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) & (b): As per the provisional data of Census 2011, for the country as a whole, the sex ratio has improved from 933 in 2001, to 940 in 2011. However, there is a sharp decline in child sex ratio, in the age-group of 0-6 years, from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011. For the state of Haryana, the overall sex ratio has improved to 877 in 2011 as against 861 in 2001 and Child Sex Ratio has also increased to 830 as against 819, over the same period.

In order to curb female foeticide and improve the sex ratio, Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy which includes legislative measures, advocacy, awareness generation and programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women.

The legislative measures comprise of implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994(PCPNDT), under which sex selective abortions are punishable. The Government in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is responsible for implementation of this Act and details of budget approved under PNDT are at annex, enforcement of the Act lies with the State Governments.

For advocacy and awareness generation and to create national awareness on issues relating to girl child, in 2009, Ministry of Women and Child Development has declared January 24 as the National Girl Child Day. Further, to encourage change of mind sets, Government of India has introduced on pilot basis, 'Dhanalakshmi', a scheme for incentivising birth of the Girl Child. A number of States are also implementing their own schemes to incentivise the birth of a girl child

Besides, the Government of India has undertaken a number of initiatives for socio-economic empowerment of women, such as Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and loans through the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

The Government of Haryana has taken various steps to improve the gender balance. These include (a) implementation of the Ladli Scheme w.e.f. 20.8.2005. Under the scheme a sum of Rs.5000/- is given on the birth of second girl child for a period of 5 years. This money is invested with L.I.C. and a sum of Rs.96, 000/- is given on the attainment of 18 years of age of the child. 1, 29,261 families have been covered so far. (b) introduction of a scheme for improving sex ratio, under which, the best performing districts are given cash prize of Rs.5.00 lacs, 3.00 lacs and 2.00 lacs respectively. (c) constitution of State Empowerment Mission on Women under the chairperson of Chief Minister.