

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2628

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011

DECLINE IN SEX-RATIO

Badal Harsimrat Kaur;Gavit Shri Manikrao Hodlya;Naqvi Shri Zafar Ali;Natrajan Meenakshi;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing schemes/programmes to improve the sex ratio in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and released under such schemes during Eleventh Five Year Plan, year-wise and State-wise and proposed for Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether the said schemes/ programmes have failed in achieving the sex- ratio target as fixed in this regard;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the schemes and to amend the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PC&PNDT Act, 1994) to improve the sex-ratio in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to give incentives to States and institutions/individuals to improve sex ratio; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes. Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Phase II (RCH II) is an integral component of the National Rural Health Mission. Important steps have been taken within the mandate of this programme to curb sex determination through effective implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 as amended in 2003.

(b) State-wise details for PNDT related activities are annexed.

The outlay for the Twelfth Plan is not yet finalized.

(c) to (e) No. Government of India is committed to strengthen effective implementation of the PC & PNDT Act to address the declining child sex ratio in the country. The recent initiatives undertaken by Government of India to strengthen 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 creating awareness.

States have been asked to take advantage of funding available under NRHM for strengthening infrastructure and augmentation of human resources required for effective implementation of the PC & PNDT Act.

(f) & (g) 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. 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.

II. A number of States including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh etc. have put in place a system of rewards/grants for the best performing panchayat and village showing best/improving child sex ratio.

III. The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution has made it mandatory for 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.

IV. 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.

V. 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.

VI. 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.