

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2068
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
DHANALAKSHMI SCHEME
Paswan Shri Kamlesh

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented Dhanalakshmi Scheme through out the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which the said scheme has been successful in checking female foeticide and promoting the education among the girls?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No, Madam. To change the perception and mind sets of the society towards the girl child and to establish that she is also a productive member of the family, Government of India has introduced a pilot Scheme, "Dhanalakshmi - Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child". Besides, a number of States are also implementing their own Schemes to empower the girl child.

Dhanalakshmi Scheme has been launched on 3rd March, 2008 in 11 Blocks of 7 States as detailed below: -

State District Block

Andhra Pradesh Khammam Warangal Aswaraopeta Narsampet

Chattisgarh Bastar Bijapur Jagdalpur Bhopalpattnam

Orissa Malkangiri Koraput Kalimela Semiliguda

Jharkhand Giridih Kodarma Tisri Markachor

Bihar Jamoi Sono

Uttar Pradesh Rae Bareilly Shivgarh

Punjab Fatehgarh Sahib Sirhind

The Scheme provides for cash transfers to the family of the girl child (preferably the mother) on fulfilling certain specific conditionalities for the girl child.

The Scheme is being implemented by the State Government through district authorities. The Ministry is monitoring implementation of

the scheme through review meetings with the States. Since the scheme was launched on 03rd March 2008 on a pilot basis, the impact of the scheme will be known after its evaluation.

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.

For advocacy and awareness generation and to create national awareness on issues relating to girl child, Ministry of Women and Child Development has declared January 24 as the National Girl Child Day.

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 MahilaKosh.