

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1629  
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012  
DECLINE IN SEX RATIO  
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the child sex ratio (0-6) years has fallen consistently over the last two decades and is now at the lowest since the country's independence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has analyzed the reasons behind the drastic fall in the child sex ratio;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken note of the silent observer and the active tracker technologies, mechanisms to track the sonography data/results of the patients, which is currently being used/proposed to be used in various States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Government's plans to promote the usage of such technologies across the country to curb the declining child sex ratio?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

- (a) & (b): Yes. As per the Census 2011(Prov) the child sex ratio (0-6 years) has declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 914 in 2011 as per details Annexed.
  - (c) & (d): The major reasons for skewed sex ratio include sex selection followed by female foeticide, early childhood neglect the girl child, son preference, dowry, insecurity and certain socio cultural belief and practices. Desire for a small family coupled with easy availability of sex determination tests may be a catalyst in the declining child sex ratio.
  - (e) & (f): District Magistrate, Kolhapur has taken an initiative to use a device called "Silent Observer" to track ultrasound scans of pregnant women.
- District appropriate Authorities have to discretion to facilitate mechanisms to check illegal sex determination tests, including use of innovative ICT strategies like the 'Silent Observer' among others. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare encourages Appropriate Authorities at State and district level for effective implementation of the Act through use of appropriate strategies, but does not endorse any particular technology.