

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:251

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

INCENTIVE FOR GIRLS

Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Vundavalli Shri Aruna Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched any scheme to save the girl child and provide more incentives to the girls irrespective of caste, creed, community and economical status of parents in the wake of the declining sex-ratio in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of beneficiaries there from during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the funds sanctioned and utilized by the State Governments during the said period?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.251 by Shri V. Aruna Kumar and Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi for answer on 30.03.2012 regarding Incentive for Girls

(a) & (b): Provisional results of Census 2012 has revealed that while the overall sex ratio in the country has improved from 933 in 2001 to 940 females per 1000 males in 2011, there has been a sharp decline in child sex ratio in the age-group of 0-6 years, declining from 927 girls per thousand boys in 2001 to 914 in 2011. This decline has been continuing unabated since 1961.

The Government recognizes that the problem of declining child sex ratio in India is not an isolated phenomenon but must be seen in the context of the low status of women and the girl child as a whole, within the home and outside. While its immediate reasons can be traced to increasing son preference as well as advances in technology that has encouraged sex selective abortions, concern of safety and security of the girl child along with the practice of dowry are no less responsible for it.

Accordingly, the Government has undertaken a number of measures to improve survival and status of girl children in the country. While programmes for improvement of nutrition benefit all children including girl children, like the Integrated Child Development Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Mid-day meal scheme etc., specific interventions for girl children include implementing the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques(Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, pilot cash transfer scheme of 'Dhanlakshmi', setting up a Sectoral Innovation Council for improving child sex ratio, and the pilot scheme 'Sabra' for a comprehensive Intervention for adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18, with a focus on out of school girls in select 200 districts of the country.

Of the above, 'Dhanlakshmi' provides cash incentive, and the scheme does not discriminate on the basis of caste, creed, community and economic status of parents.

(c) & (d): 'Dhanlakshmi' is a pilot scheme being implemented in the following districts of the country:

State District Block

Andhra Pradesh Khammam Aswaraopeta

Warangal Narsampet

Chattisgarh Bastar Jagdalpur

Bijapur Bhopalpattnam

Orissa Malkangiri Kalimela

Koraput Semiliguda

Jharkhand Giridih Tisri

Kodarma Markachor

Bihar Jamoi Sono

Uttar Pradesh Rae Bareilly Shivgarh

Punjab Fatehgarh Sahib Sirhind

The details of funds sanctioned and the number of beneficiaries reported by the State Governments for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are at Annex.

A number of States are also implementing their own 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 (CCTs). Some of these are the Laadli Scheme of Delhi Govt., Mukhya Mantri Kanya Suraksha Yojna of Bihar Govt., Bhagyalakshmi Scheme of Karnataka, Ladli Lakshmi Yojna of MP, Balika Samridhi Yojna of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, Balri Rakshak Yojana in Punjab and Kanyadan scheme of Madhya Pradesh.