

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:106

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

CHILD SEX RATIO

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

- (a) whether the child sex ratio has declined in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the child sex ratio in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of cases for illegal sex determination reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (d) the action taken by the Government against the Diagnostic Centres indulging in such illegal activities during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal sex determination tests and the practice of female foeticide as well as improve the sex ratio in the country? ANSWER MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

Answer

(a) & (b) Yes. The child sex ratio (0-6years) has declined from 927 females per thousand males in 2001 to 914 females per 1000 males in 2011 as per Census 2011. State/UT- wise details are at Annexure - I.

(c) & (d) As per Quarterly Progress Reports received from the States/UTs, The State/UT-wise details of cases filed against violations of the PC & PNDT Act are at Annexure-II. So far, a total of 996 machines have been seized /sealed and 111 convictions have been secured and 33 medical licenses have been suspended for violations of the PC & PNDT Act. The details are at Annexure-III.

(e) Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to check illegal sex determination tests and to curb female foeticide in the country. For prohibition of sex selection, before and after conception, and for regulation of prenatal diagnostic techniques, the Government has enacted a comprehensive legislation the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, further amended in 2003.

The measures include the following:-

The Government have intensified effective implementation of the said Act and amended various rules covering provision for sealing and seizure and confiscation of unregistered machines and punishment against unregistered clinics. Regulation of use of portable ultrasound equipment has been notified only within the registered premises has been notified. Restriction on medical practitioners to conduct ultrasonography at maximum of two ultrasound facilities within a district has been placed. Registration fees have been enhanced. Rules have been amended to provide for advance intimation in change in employees, place, address or equipment.

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare has requested all the State Governments to strengthen implementation of the Act and timely steps to stop use of illegal sex determination.

The Prime Minister has urged the Chief Ministers of all States to provide personal leadership to reverse the declining trend in child sex ratio and address the neglect of the girl child through focus on education and empowerment.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has intensified efforts to exhort the States and UTs to pay utmost attention to serious implementation of the Act.

The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) under the PNDT Act has been reconstituted and regular meetings are being held.

Matter has been taken up with Ministry of communication and information technology to block sex selection advertisements on websites.

The National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) have been reconstituted and inspections of ultrasound diagnostic facilities have been intensified. Inspections have been carried out in many states including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

The Government is rendering financial support to the States and UTs for Information, Education and Communication campaigns and for strengthening structures for the implementation of the Act under the National Rural Health Mission.

States have been advised to focus on Districts/Blocks/Villages with low Child Sex Ratio to ascertain the causes, plan appropriate Behaviour Change Communication campaigns and effectively implement provisions of the PC & PNDT Act.

Religious leaders, women achievers etc. are being involved in the campaign against skewed child sex ratio and discrimination of the girl child.