

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:907
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
PRENATAL TEST
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allow prenatal testing to detect and prevent the birth of children affected with chromosomal and genetic disorder, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether over 32000 babies are born with down syndrome every year in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether intellectual disability affects about 3% of the general population and is associated with series of mental and social handicaps; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

- (a): The Government has enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, for prohibition of sex selection before or after conception and for prevention of misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination. The Act regulates the pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic abnormalities or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders.
- (b): The reported frequency of Down syndrome, from eight hospitals in India on 75,103 birth is 1.9 per 1000 live birth. With annual birth cohort of 26 million, children born with Down syndrome is estimated to be 49400.
- (c) & (d): The National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in its 58th round, surveyed 45571 and 24731 households in rural and urban areas, respectively from 4637 villages and 3354 urban blocks, at the all-India level and reported prevalence of 94 person (92 in rural and 100 in urban areas) suffering from mental retardation per 1,00,000 persons. World Health Organization, 1992 defined intellectual disability (ID) or mental retardation as "a condition of arrested or incomplete development of the mind, which is especially characterized by impairment of skills manifested during the development period, which contribute to the overall level of intelligence, i.e. cognitive, language, motor and social abilities".