

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1136

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014

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 dropped from 983 to 918 women per 1000 men between 1951 and 2011 in the country as per the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) study, and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether instances of female foeticide and infanticide continue to remain high in the country and if so, the number of cases of female foeticide reported in the country during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken against the guilty, State/UT-wise;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb female foeticide and to ensure effective implementation of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (PC&PNDT Act) in the country; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to amend Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP), 1971, and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

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

(a): Yes. As per the Census, 2011 conducted by Registrar General of India, the child sex ratio (0-6 years) has shown a decline from 927 women per thousand men in 2001 to 918 women per thousand men in 2011. State/UT-wise details of CSR are placed at Annexure-I. Some of the reasons for neglect of girl child and low child sex ratio are son preference and the belief that it is only the son who can perform the last rites, that lineage and inheritance runs through the male line, sons will look after parents in old age, men are the bread winners etc. Exorbitant dowry demand is another reason for female foeticide/infanticide.

(b): As per National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), a total of 132 cases, 210 cases and 221 cases were reported under foeticide during 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively and a total of 63 cases, 81 cases and 82 cases were reported under infanticide during 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. State/UT-wise data relating to cases registered under foeticide during 2011-2013, as maintained by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) are at Annexure-II.

(c): Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy entailing schemes and programmes and awareness generation/advocacy measures to build a positive environment for the girl child through gender sensitive policies, provisions and legislation. The details of important measures is at Annexure-III.

(d): After a number of multi stakeholder discussions which included an Expert Committee comprising of representatives from academic institutions including Medical Colleges, representatives of Central and State Government Ministries/ Departments, professional bodies and associations, development partners, technical agencies, NGOs and civil society, the Government of India has formulated a Draft Bill on amendments to the MTP Act, 1971 with a proposal to allow Ayurvedas, Homeopaths and Nurses to conduct MTPs under certain conditionality's. Due legislative processes will be followed before the draft Bill can be finalized.