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Title: Need to implement cradle baby scheme throughout the country.

\*DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir. Vanakkam.

Although we have placed women in high esteem in India since time immemorial, there is still hatred for female children in our society. In the year 1941 the sex ratio was 1010 females as against 1000 males. In the year 2001, it came down to 927 females per 1000 males. The figure has drastically come down to 919 females per 1000 males in 2011. In the national capital Delhi, the sex ratio is still worse. It is 871 females per 1000 males. This is a matter of great concern.

Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the *Beti Bachao; Beti Padhao Andolan* (save the girl child; educate the girl child) in Haryana with a grant of Rs.100 crore. Our focus should be to check female foeticide and dowry related issues besides providing education and job opportunities for women. Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma had launched a programme named cradle baby scheme way back in 1992 in Tamil Nadu to give support and help in upbringing of abandoned girl children. This Scheme is still successfully implemented in Tamil Nadu. Mother Teresa was very much pleased to know about this scheme and during her visit to Chennai had appreciated the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma for implementing such a scheme with utmost concern for saving girl children. More than 4500 girl children have so far been saved under this Scheme and they are now holding high position in the society.

I urge that the cradle baby scheme should be implemented throughout the country. Thank you.