

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2885
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**

PRE-NATAL SEX DETERMINATION

2885. SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed online search engines to adopt in-house mechanisms to identify and block advertisements relating to pre-natal sex determination; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for its compliance?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): Yes. In this regard Hon'ble Supreme Court by vide order dated 16.02.2017 in a Civil Writ Petition No. 341/ 2008 Dr.Sabu Mathew George Vs Union of Indian & Others has directed the Respondent namely Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft to appoint **In – House Expert body** that shall take steps to ensure the compliance of Section 22 of the PC&PNDT Act.

In compliance of the Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Union of India has constituted a Nodal Agency at the national level where complaints can be received from the public related to electronic sex selection advertisements. Ministry has also directed all the States/ UTs to constitute Nodal Agency on similar lines and share the information of complaints forwarded to the search engines for re-dressal (removal of illegal material from website) with the Nodal Agency functioning at the national level. Further, in compliance of the Judgement dated 13.12.2017 an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary and Mission Director and co-chairmanship of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has been constituted including the members from Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), Ministry of Law and Justice (MOLJ) Department of Telecommunication (DOT) and Ministry of Home Affairs.

As directed by the Supreme Court (*order dated 13.12.2017*) a meeting of the expert committee was held on 24.01.2018 along with the Counsel of the Petitioner whereby, search engines (Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft) representatives were called to discuss and commit to ways of strengthening **in-house** mechanisms for auto-blocking the contents violative of Section 22 of the PC&PNDT Act.