

(viii) **Need to set up a Central Institution at Hardoi Town of Uttar Pradesh for dissemination of Modern Scientific Techniques of Farming**

12.51 hrs.

PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC  
TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND  
PREVENTION OF MISUSE) BILL

**As Reported by Joint Committee -**  
*Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the increasing demand for foodgrains in the country there is the utmost need to introduce latest scientific techniques in agriculture. In this regard the condition of Hardoi and Kheri districts is quite bad because still traditional techniques are being used there in agriculture.

In this field data obtained from Satellites can prove to be very useful. The problem of the area is that there is no Government, Non-Government or voluntary organisation to analyse the data received from the satellites and further to translate these into local language for the benefit of the farmers. This is the reason why the farmers are still using traditional means of farming. Using latest techniques and their knowledge is still a day dream for the farmers.

Therefore, I would like to submit to the Central Government that here is a need to set up a Centre at Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh to make use of the 'remote sensing natural resources technique' and make available the necessary latest information to the local farmers of Hardoi and adjoining district of Lakhimpur-Kheri in their own language. This will benefit the farmers and increase agricultural production.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1991. There has been a lot of debate on this Bill and there has been no opposition whatsoever to this Bill. So, it is above any controversy and acceptable to all. This is a very important Bill and this is to the year 1991 and in the second part of 1994 we are considering this Bill in the House.

Sir, the only thing that comes to our mind that this being a social legislation this also should not meet the fate of some such legislations, which have already been enacted, at least in the matter of implementation. Again, this is not the first time that such a Bill is being passed. In Parliament we are passing this Bill for the first time. But in certain States such laws are already in existence. It is existing in the States of Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Rajasthan also as the hon. Member from Rajasthan stated yesterday.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to certain remarks of some medical practitioners which they have stated in the course of an interview which has come out in some reputed journals. I do not like to name those people. But precisely the contents are that in a matter of this nature where there is a ban it can reduce sex determination tests only by 20 per cent.

{Shri Sriballav Panigrahi}

That means, there are so many ways of fighting female foeticide and for those who perform the sex determination tests, the ban is a passing inconvenience. So, the Government has to be very careful particularly with regard to implementation in this male dominated society. This is both a social and economic phenomenon. Of course, men and women are equal both constitutionally and legally. But in the social and religious arena it is not so.

In regard to religious rites particularly, we all know that the ladies are not allowed to perform *Sharadh* etc. the poor people do not like to have daughters because at the time of marriage, they have to pay dowry for their female children. So, we should revolutionalise the society and reform the society. We should bring reforms in our society that socially, religiously and economically women are treated equally with men. Of course, legally men and women are equal. But in respect of wages, regardless of the legislations that we have, female labourers are paid less. Different things are there. Religious leaders, social workers, reformers, political people should take a lead by joining together and creating that sort of atmosphere in the society. Creation of mass awareness is very much called for the successful implementation of this sort of legislation. The bureaucrats alone cannot implement it successfully. Voluntary organisations, social workers need to be involved actively and effectively. The aspect should be given due consideration by the Government. Even in certain States where such laws are there, there are loopholes. I congratulate the Government of India that they have tried to improve upon those laws. Still it cannot be said that this is entirely free from loopholes.

There are strict provisions like sending the medical practitioner behind the bar, besides imposing fine for the first offence, and for the second time, cancellation of registration of clinics etc. At the same time, who can bring the complaints of violation to the authorities? For that, I would seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. Can the people other than the affected Parties like voluntary organisations, social workers also approach the appropriate authority? You have not specified in the Act itself about the appropriate authority. I hope that would be provided in the rules. That should be taken care of in the rules.

About three decades before, from the census report, we could see, male-female ratio was 1000 : 1002 or 1000 : 1005. The number of females were slightly more than the number of males. Now it has come down drastically. Recently, the ratio of male and female is 1000 : 921. In certain States like Haryana, the number of females is 869 against 1000 males. There is total imbalance. It is because of the atmosphere that they have to give dowry for the female children. Are we proud that female foeticides are going on in large scale? The point is, in a town like Sirsa in Haryana which is near Delhi, there at least 100 Sex Determination Tests and about twenty to twenty five abortions are performed every day where such a ban is already there. It is so, despite Haryana has put a sort of restrictions of such practice.

13.00 hrs.

I do not like to make a long speech of this. This has an urgency. The way the foeticide is going on in our country is an insult to the womanhood and this is a social evil. It may be due to economic cause and there are other things also.

From our BJP side though some hon. Members are there, it would have been still better if their leaders were present. I would appeal that it is high time when, from the religious point of view, from the economic point of view and from the legal point of view, a new situation has to be created. We know that reforms are needed. I would say, why not the ladies be allowed to perform *shradh* and why not the ladies be allowed to go to the burning *ghats* and also lit the pyres, the *mukhagni* etc. Why do we prefer a male child? It is because of so many things. After all, we are a religious society and whether we may call, progressive and all those things, these things come to our minds, such as, who is there after our death to perform *shradh* and who will lit our pyres in the burning *ghats*. This way, in all spheres, all men and women should be treated at par and should be treated equally.

I congratulate the Government for this Bill which has come before this House. It should have been brought much earlier. Anyway, the Government should take care of the implementation of these provisions with due participation of the voluntary organizations and the people at large both in letter and spirit.

With these words, I lend full support to this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch  
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha Re-Assembled after  
Lunch at Nine Minutes past Fourteen of  
the Clock.*

[MR. TARA SINGH *in the Chair*]

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TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND  
PREVENTION OF MISUSE) BILL

**As reported by the Joint  
Committee - Contd.**

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Saroj Dubey.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the time to speak. I rise to fully support this important Bill. This Bill should have been introduced long back, because the Joint Committee had presented its report long ago. However, long delay has been witnessed in introducing the Bill. In the meantime a number of female foeticide might have taken place. It is difficult to indulge into guess work in this regard. Even now conspiracies are being hatched to terminate pregnancies in cases it is found that foelies is female. Widespread use of latest equipment and pre-natal diagnostic techniques has become quote torturous for women. Earlier it was painfully difficult to kill girls, but latest techniques have made it easier. Now-a-days newspapers and magazines carry advertisements inviting couples for pre-natal investigations and if female child is there in the womb then pregnancy could be terminated. This way conspiracy to kill girls during pregnancy is on. Many female child pregnancies are being terminated. This Bill to stop sex determination is very