

(b) The sex ratio from 1901 to 1981 is as follows:—

Census year	Sex ratio (Females per 1000 males)
1901	972
1911	964
1921	955
1931	950
1941	945
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	935 (provisional)

(c) Various reasons have been put forward to explain the lesser number of females than males in the country. Among these are the possibility of neglect of female children & deaths of women during child birth in certain age groups. However, no one specific or particular reason can be said to explain this phenomenon exclusively.

Guidelines for Registration in Foreign Assignment Section by States

8252. SHRI N. SELVARAJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines and norms specified by the Government of India to the State Governments in forwarding applications for registration in the Foreign Assignment Section of Government of India;

(b) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu have stipulated many conditions and strings which are not in vogue in any of the States and against the Government of India policy in the matter of registration in Foreign Assignment Section and also in getting relief for foreign assignments; and

(c) whether Government propose to advise the Government of Tamil Nadu to follow the general guidelines and norms in this matter to ensure equality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) Experts having (i) graduate and higher professional qualifications in their field of specialisation (ii) three years professional experience and (iii) who are below 60 years of age are eligible for registration on the Foreign Assignment panels maintained for meeting the requirements of developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Applications for registration from employees of Government and semi-government organisations are required to be supported by a certificate from their employers that the applicants will be released for service abroad on foreign service terms in public interest within 30 days of selection, if need be, and also stating the total period for which the applicants would be released for deputation abroad.

(b) and (c). The requisite information is being obtained from the Government of Tamil Nadu and it will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

Welfare of Beedi Workers

8253. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the main functions performed so far by the regional Headquarters of the Eastern States at Bhubaneswar in Orissa run by the Labour Welfare department of the Government of India to promote the welfare of the Beedi workers; and

(b) the methods and policies pursued by this regional headquarter in performing its functions?