

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme, namely, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), from 2009-10, under which financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up and maintenance of Children's Homes and Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) for providing facilities required for rehabilitation and reintegration of children in need of care and protection, including orphan and abandoned children.

Prevalance of female foeticide

2619. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that as per the recent census there is a big drop in the numbers of girls per 1000 boys up to the age of six to 914 from 927 a decade ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is prevalence pf female foeticide; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and all the actions taken by Government to prevent female foeticide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data of Census 2011, the sex ratio has improved from 933 in 2001, to 940 in 2011 for the country as a whole. However, child sex ratio viz. the number of girls per thousand boys, in the age-group of 0-6 years, from has declined 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011.

In order to curb female foeticide and improve child sex ratio, Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy which includes legislative measures, advocacy, awareness generation measures and programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women.

The legislative measures comprise the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994(PCPNDT), under which sex selective abortions are punishable. The Government in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is responsible for administration of this Act and is monitoring its implementation with the State Governments.

For advocacy and awareness generation and to create national awareness on issues relating to girl child, Ministry of Women and Child Development declared in 2009; January 24 as the National Girl Child Day. Further, to encourage change of mind sets, Government of India has introduced on pilot basis, 'Dhanalakshmi', a scheme for incentivising birth of the Girl Child. A number of States are also implementing their own schemes to incentivise the birth of a girl child.

Besides, the Government of India has undertaken a number of initiatives for socio-economic empowerment of women, such as Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission(NRLM) and disbursement of loans to Self Help Groups through the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

Working women's hostel

†2620. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of working women's hostel in the country including Uttarakhand;
- (b) the parameters to sanction financial assistance for building working women's hostel;
- (c) whether Government has received proposals from some State Governments to build more working women's hostel;
- (d) if so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (e) the action taken thereon; and
- (f) the year-wise details of financial assistance sanctioned, released and utilized by State Governments every year during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Since the inception of the scheme, 891 working women hostels have been sanctioned in the country including 07 working women hostels in Uttarakhand. State-wise number of working women's hostels sanctioned throughout the country is given in the Statement (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.