

are the other measures taken to bridge the gap in human resources. As per NRHM State- wise progress as on 30 the June, 2011, 38 specialists, 354 General Duty Medical Officers [GDMOs] and 19 AYUSH doctors have been appointed under NRHM on contractual basis in the State of West Bengal.

The posts required for health facilities are filled up by respective State/UT Governments. They are impressed upon from time to time to fill up the vacant post.

Steps for checking sex determination tests

†3052. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the direction of establishing a monitoring mechanism and preparing a comprehensive management plan against sex determination with Central aid, desired success could not be achieved in many States of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has proposed to take some concrete steps, which are in accordance with the suggestions/findings, put forth in this connection in the meeting of State Health Secretaries and Ministers organised in Delhi recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) to (c) No. In the meeting of State Health Ministers and Health Secretaries, held under the Chairmanship of Hon. Union Health Minister on the 28th September, 2011 at New Delhi, States have been exhorted to curb sex determination through effective implementation of the PC and PNDT Act as per key action points mentioned below:

- Appointment of District Collectors as District Appropriate Authority.
- Monitoring stand-alone diagnostic facilities and regulation of multiple registrations of radiologists at ultrasound clinics/facilities as well as portable ultrasound machines.
- Sustained advocacy and communication strategies for community awareness with focus on Information, Education, Communication; involvement of religious leaders, NGOs and public service messages for affirmative action to nurture the girl child.
- On line filing of F-Forms to capture real time data and swift action against violations of the Act.
- Surprise inspections of ultrasound diagnostic facilities by State Inspection and Monitoring Committees.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Capacity building of implementing agencies at all levels at State/district and sub district level.
- Setting up dedicated PNDT cells at State/district level with adequate infrastructure and human resource capacity.
- Surveillance against increasing sale of cheaper foreign brands and refurbished/second hand ultrasound machines by dealers.

Dismal child sex ratio in cities

3053. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report the child sex ratio in the country is worst in the cities as compared to other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) The child Sex Ratio in the country has declined from 927 to 914 in Census 2011.

As per the Provisional Population Totals, Urban Agglomerations and Cities, Census 2011, the child Sex Ratio in Urban Agglomerations/Cities with 100,000 persons and above is 899.

(b) Some of the reasons for neglect of girl child and low levels of sex ratio are son preference, low status of women, social and financial security associated with sons, socio-cultural practices including dowry and violence against women.

Further, small family norm coupled with access to sex determination tests and abortion services are a catalyst in the declining child sex ratio.

With a view to improving the child sex ratio, the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, was enacted by the Government of India, and further amended in 2003, with the objective of prohibiting sex selection before or after conception, regulation of Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques and prevention of their misuse for sex determination leading to female foeticide.

The recent initiatives undertaken by Government of India to strengthen effective implementation of the Act include the following:

- Rule 11 (2) of the PC & PNDT Rules, 1996 has been amended to provide for confiscation of unregistered machines and further punishment of organizations which fail to register themselves under the Act.
- The National Inspection and monitoring Committee has been reconstituted and apart from inspections, further empowered to oversee follow-up action by Appropriate