

**Low sex-ratio in under five age group**

1899. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per one of the World Women 2015 Report, India is the only country where more girls die than boys in the under five age group;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has the lowest sex ratio in under five age group;

(c) whether it means that the existing legislation is insufficient to reduce mortality or there is lack of will to implement the legislation; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry is planning to recast its policies and their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The World Women Report is not compiled by the Government. However, as per Registrar General of India (Census 2011) data the Child Sex Ratio (0-6 age group) is 918 *i.e.* 918 girls per 1000 boys.

(c) The Government has enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, for prohibition of sex selection before or after conception and for prevention of misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination.

As per Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) submitted by States/UTs, 51704 diagnostic facilities including Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Clinic, Ultrasound Clinic and Imaging Centre have been registered under the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994. So far, a total of 1435 machines have been sealed and seized for violations of the PC & PNDT Act. A total of 2142 court cases have been filed by the concerned appropriate authorities and 304 convictions have so far been secured under the Act. Following conviction the medical licenses of 100 doctors have been suspended/cancelled.

(d) Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy entailing schemes and programmes and awareness generation/advocacy measures to build a positive environment for the girl child through gender sensitive policies, provisions and legislation. The details of important measures are enclosed in the Statement.

***Statement******Measures taken to build a positive environment for the girls***

- The Government has intensified effective implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and amended various provisions of the Rules.
- The Government is rendering financial support to the States and UTs for operationalization of PNDT Cells, Capacity Building, Orientation and Sensitisation Workshop, Information, Education and Communication campaigns and for strengthening structures for the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act under the National Health Mission (NHM).
- A National review under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary and Mission Director, MoHFW was held on 21st September, 2015 through video conference.
- Program review at the State level has been intensified. Five regional review workshops for North, West, Central, North East and Southern regions were organized during 2014-15. During 2015-16 two regional review workshop have been organized for Northern Eastern States and Northern States in Manipur and Chandigarh respectively.
- National campaign “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” was launched in 100 gender critical districts in partnership with Ministry of Woman and Child Development and Human Resource Development.
- Directions given by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the matter of WP(C) 349/2006 (Voluntary Health Association of Punjab vs. UOI & others), were communicated to the States/ UTs time to time for ensuring compliance.
- Inspections by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) have been scaled up. In year 2014-15, 19 inspection visits have been undertaken in different States. During 2015-16, 16 NIMC inspections have been conducted in the States of Punjab, Puducherry, Tripura, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Mizoram, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Telengana, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand and Gujarat.
- States have been advised to focus on Districts/Blocks/Villages with low Child Sex Ratio to ascertain the causes, plan appropriate behaviour change communication campaigns and effectively implement provisions of the PC and PNDT Act.

**Patient overload at Government Hospitals**

1900. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the surge of doctors, there is one doctor for 11,528 people in Government hospitals;