Violation of PNDT Act, 1994

378. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sex determination cases that have been registered for violating the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC and PNDT) (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 in the last three years;
 - (b) the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to tackle the problem, especially in States with the highest number of violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) As per the information received in Quarterly Progress Reports from State Governments/UT, State/UT wise number of cases for communication of Sex of foetus in the last 3 years is given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) The Government of India, besides enactment of the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has adopted a multi-pronged strategy entailing schemes and programmes for awareness generation and advocacy measures to build a positive environment for the girl child through gender sensitive policies, provisions and legislation. The details of various steps taken by the Government of India in the last three years for controlling violations of PC&PNDT Act and improving Child Sex Ratio of India are given in Statement-II.

State-wise Number of Cases registered for Communication of Sex of
Foetus during Last Three Years

Sl. No. State/ UT		2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	7	2
8.	Haryana	44	46	48
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	2	0	1
13.	Kerala	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	2	0
15.	Maharashtra	2	0	3
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
<u>19.</u>	Nagaland	0	0	0

Sl. No. State/ UT 20		2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
20.	Odisha	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	8	4	6
22.	Rajasthan	26	30	42
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25.	Telangana	0	2	8
26.	Tripura	0	0	0
27.	Uttarakhand	2	2	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	0	O	0
29.	West Bengal	0	0	0
3 0.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	O	
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	O	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	O	0
34.	Delhi	0	1	Ī
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
3 6.	Puducherry	0	0	0
	Total	84	94	114

Statement-II

Various steps taken by the MOHFW in the last three years for controlling violations of PC&PNDT Act and improving Child Sex Ratio

- The Government has intensified effective implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and amended and inserted various new provisions in the PC&PNDT Rules.
- Central Supervisory Board (CSB) under the PNDT Act has been reconstituted.
 The 23rd meeting of the CSB was held on 24th June 2015 where important policy decisions were taken for effective implementation of the Act. 24th CSB meeting

- was held on 05th April, 2016. 25th CSB meeting was held on 05th January, 2017. 26th CSB meeting was held on 24th January, 2018.
- 3. The Government of India has notified several important amendments in Rules in the last three years under the Act including the Rules for Six Months Training in ultrasound, more simplified revised form F, Rules for Code of conduct for Appropriate Authorities, exemption of registration fee under the Act for Government Diagnostic Facilities and Manner of Appeal to the Appellate Authority under the Act.
- 4. Inspections by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) have been scaled up. Total 41 inspection visits have been conducted in the last three years: 12 inspections in 2016-17, 20 inspections in 2017-18 and 9 inspections in 2018-19. During 2018-19, 9 NIMC inspections have been conducted in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. Observations and recommendations of the NIMC teams have been communicated to their concerned authorities for further necessary action.
- 5. State Inspection and Monitoring Committees have been constituted in the States/ UTs and are conducting regular inspections on the ground. State Inspection and Monitoring Committees have conducted total 4,53,562 inspections. The State of Maharashtra undertook maximum inspections (32,800) followed by Karnataka (4,072) and West Bengal (3,037) inspections in the last year between April 2018 -March 2019.
- 6. National Scheme "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" anchored by the Ministry of WCD in partnership with MOHFW and HRD, has now been extended to PAN India. Ministry of Health & FW has actively participated for creating awareness and capacity building on PC&PNDT Act in all the orientation programmes/ multisectoral District Action Plans for the additional 61 districts.
- 7. Two national workshops were conducted and total 14 regional Reviews were conducted during last 5 years. During 2018-19, capacity building workshops for district Appropriate Authorities and PNDT nodal officers were conducted in 9 states including Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and West Bengal with the technical support of UNFPA.

Written Answers to

- Regional review meeting was conducted on March 18th & 19th, 2019 in Bhubhneswar for 15 States including Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizorarn, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim.
- The orientation and sensitisation of judiciary has been initiated through National Judicial Academy. The National Judicial Academy is conducting special PC&PNDT Act session in the orientation programmes for High Court Judges. Sensitisation programmes for Judicial Officers and public prosecutors were also being conducted in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Odisha, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Chandigarh.
- On the request of MOHFW, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, has assured that academy will take necessary steps towards sensitizing IAS officers regarding the PC & PNDT Act and their role as chairperson of the District Task Force (DTF) on BBBP.
- 11. Ministry on behalf of UOI defended the PC&PNDT legislation and secured excellent judgments from the Apex Court of India as below:
 - WP349/2006- VHAP Vs UOI&ORS- Directions for expediting the a. implementation of PC&PNDT Act and upheld all the amendments done in the PC&PNDT Rules in 2014.
 - WP 341/2008- Dr. Sabu George Vs UOI &ORS- Direction were given to the b. search engines to comply with the section 22 of the PC&PNDT Act besides strengthen the internal monitoring mechanisms to stop the sex selection e-advertisements.
 - SLP 16657-59/2016- UOI Vs IRIA & ORS- Six months training rules were C. upheld and granted stay on the Delhi High Court judgment that declared the Six Months Rules Ultra vires to the Act.
 - WP 129 2017- FOGSI Vs UOI& ORS- the legislative provisions including the maintenance of Form F and punishments laid down under Section 23 of PC&PNDT Act were upheld.
- Supreme Court of India has upheld the legislative provisions including the maintenance of Form F and punishments laid down under Section 23 of PC&PNDT

Act in the matter of WP(C) 129/2017 -FOGSI *Vs* UOI. The judgment dated 03.05.2019 were communicated to the States/ UTs at the level of Principal Health Secretaries to ensure immediate compliance.

- 13. As per Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) of March, 2019 submitted by State Governments/ UTs, 64,727 diagnostic facilities including Genetic Counselling Centres, Genetic Laboratories, Genetic Clinics, Ultrasound Clinics and Imaging Centres have been registered under PC&PNDT Act. So far, a total of 2,122 machines have been sealed and seized for violations of the law. A total of 2,943 court cases have been filed by the District Appropriate Authorities under the Act and 586 convictions have so far been secured. Following conviction, the medical licenses of 138 doctors have been suspended/cancelled.
- 14. The Government has also set up a Nodal Agency in 2016 to regulate and remove the e-advertisements on internet relating to preconception and prenatal determination of sex or sex selection, prohibited under the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 16.11.2016 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 341 of 2008. The Nodal agency has been strengthened by augmenting dedicated human resource of two personnel in 2018.
- 15. A Handbook on (Standard Operational Guidelines) SOGs has been developed and disseminated to the Appropriate Authorities for effective and standard implementation of the PC & PNDT Act, 1994 and Rules in the country.
- 16. The Central Government is rendering financial support to strengthen implementation structures under NHM for setting up dedicated PNDT Cells, capacity building, monitoring, advocacy campaign and other financial assistance for training and IEC campaigns.

Ratio of doctors and hospital beds

- 379. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the ratio of doctors per 1000 population currently *vis-a-vis* the World Health Organization (WHO) standard, State and UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the ratio of hospital beds per 1000 population currently vis-a-vis the World Health Organization (WHO) standard, State and UT-wise; and