

More than 30 vaccine candidates have been supported which are in different stages of development, 3 candidates are in advanced stage of Phase I/II/III trials and more than 4 are in advanced pre-clinical development stage. A National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 has been constituted on 7th August, 2020, under NITI Ayog. Thirteen clinical trials of repurposed drugs have been undertaken to build a portfolio of therapeutic options for Covid-19 patients.

Sex determination tests

1068. DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that sex determination tests are being conducted by doctors at several medical centres/hospitals illegally in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government in order to discourage the said practice; and
- (c) the number of sex determination tests and female foeticide reported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) In order to check the illegal use of Pre-conception and Prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex-selection leading to female foeticide, Government of India is implementing the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994 through the states and UTs. As per the information received in the Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs), from States/UTs, up to March 2020 total 4641 cases have been filed for various violations under PC&PNDT Act, out of which 3107 are pending in various district courts and 1534 have been disposed off. Further, up to March 2020 total 607 convictions have been secured and following convictions, medical licence of 142 doctors have been suspended.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is taking the following steps /initiatives to ensure the effective implementation of the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 so that the illegal practice of sex determination is eliminated/ curtailed:—

- Regular monitoring of diagnostic Centres/Clinics/ Labs through visits of Inspection and Monitoring Committees.
- Regular Review of implementation of the law at the National/State /District level.

- Capacity building of implementing officers and sensitisation of public prosecutors.
- Mechanisms are formulated at the National/ State level to monitor illegal e-advertisement for sex -selection on internet.
- Providing incentives for community informers and Conducting decoy operations to uncover the illegal practices of sex selections at the State and UT level.
- Rendering financial support to the States/UTs for strengthening implementation mechanisms of the Act.

The Government of India, besides enactment of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has adopted a multi-pronged strategy, through gender sensitive policies and is taking all efforts to enhance convergence with the Scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) which aims to bring about progressive mindset in society, favouring the girl child.

(c) As per the information received in Quarterly Progress Reports from State Governments/UTs up to March 2020, number of cases registered for communication of Sex of foetus in the last three years are as below:—

Year	Cases Registered
2017-18	94
2018-19	114
2019-20	30

Further, as per the information received from National Crime Record Bureau, data on female foeticide is not available however, cases reported for foeticide during the last three years are provided as below:—

Year	Cases Registered
2016	144
2017	115
2018	128