

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4751
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd MARCH, 2018**

DROP IN SEX RATIO

4751. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per NITI Aayog reports the sex ratio at birth in Himachal Pradesh has recorded a substantial drop;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address this issue?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): As per the NITI Aayog report, which is based on SRS 2016 nine states including Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Haryana recorded substantial drops (10 or more points) in Sex Ratio at Birth between the base year (2012-14) and reference year (2013-15).

However, as per the information received from the state of Himachal Pradesh, the state has shown substantial improvement in sex ratio at birth from 916 in 2012 to 928 in 2017 as per the Central Registration of Birth Data

Sex ratio at birth, imbalances is a manifestation of discriminatory practice of gender based sex selection leading to pre-birth elimination of females. The most dominant contributory factor includes deeply entrenched son preference and misuse of prenatal diagnostic technology for illegal sex selection.

(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.

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 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 important measures taken by Government of India are at Annexure.

Further, various state specific action+ taken by the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh as below:

- Total 11 cases have been filed from 2015 to 2017 for the violations under the Act.
- District Appropriate Authorities under the PC & PNDT Act have conducted 602 inspections in 2015-16, 843 inspections in 2016-17 and 730 in 2017-18(up to 31/12/2017).
- The state Govt. is giving an incentive on yearly bases of Rs. 5,00,000 (Five Lakh only) to the block having best Child sex ratio in each District from state budget.

Various steps taken by the MOHFW for removing the gap of 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 various provisions of the Rules.
- The Government of India has notified several important amendments in Rules under the Act including the Rules for Six Months Training in ultrasound, simplified revised form F, Rules for Code of conduct for Appropriate Authorities, exemption of registration fee for Government Diagnostic Facilities and manner of appeal to the Appellate Authority under the Act.
- Inspections by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) have been scaled up. During 2015-16, 22 NIMC inspections have been undertaken in the States of Punjab, Puducherry, Tripura, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Mizoram, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. During 2016-17, 12 NIMC inspections have been undertaken in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. During 2017-18, 20 NIMC visits has been conducted in States of Punjab, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu West Bengal and Chandigarh.
- State/ UTs/ district Inspection and Monitoring Committees have been constituted in the States/ UTs and are conducting regular inspections on the ground. Up to December 2017, the State of Maharashtra conducted maximum inspections (184354) followed by Punjab (42993) and Uttar Pradesh (24565).
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is rendering financial support to strengthen implementation structures under National Health Mission (NHM) for setting up of dedicated PNDT Cells, capacity building, monitoring, and advocacy campaigns etc. In 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 Rs. 23.11 cores, Rs. 34.71 cores and Rs. Rs. 23.79 cores have been approved respectively for PNDT cells, monitoring and capacity building and IEC campaigns. Further, in 2017-18 total Rs 26.14 cores have been allocated for PNDT activities.
- National Capacity Building Programmes for State Appropriate Authorities and State Nodal Officers have being organized regularly.
- A comprehensive Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) for District Appropriate Authority has been prepared by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for better clarity for implementation of the PC&PNDT Act.
- Program review at the State/UTs level has been intensified. During 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 total 14 Regional Review workshops were organized for Northern, Western, Eastern Southern and North-Eastern States.

- A national level consultation meeting for the standardisation of online Form F and to minimise clerical errors for preventing unwarranted cases against the doctors was conducted on 13th January 2017. As an outcome of the consultation an advisory has been sent to all the States/UTs specifying common minimum standards for developing 'Form F' software.
- 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/and concerned Ministries/Departments for ensuring compliance.
- The Government has also set up a Nodal Agency to regulate and remove the e-advertisements on internet relating to pre-conception and prenatal determination of sex or sex selection, prohibited under the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 16.11.2016 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 341 of 2008.
- The orientation and sensitisation of judiciary has been conducted through National Judicial Academy. A two day orientation and sensitisation of judiciary was organised by National Judicial Academy on 4th & 5th February 2017 in Bhopal. Further the National Judicial Academy also conducted special PC & PNDT Act session in two orientation programmes for High Court Judges in the current financial year 2017-18.
- 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 & PNDT Act.