

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1849
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2018**

DECLINING SEX RATIO AT BIRTH

**1849. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) has seen a sharp decline in 17 out of 21 large States in the country in 2015-16 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Gujarat has recorded an alarming dip in SRB and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the same declining trend has continued in Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether this dip in SRB makes out a case for more effective implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating any steps to check this growing trend of unequal SRB and if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a): As per the Sample Registration Survey (SRS), Registrar General of India (RGI)-2014-16, 9 states out of 22 states have recorded improvement in Sex Ratio (female per 1000 male) at Birth whereas 13 states have shown decline as per the details at **Annexure-I**
- (b): As per the SRS, the Sex Ratio at Birth for Gujarat has decreased from 854 in 2013-15 to 848 in 2014-16 recording a decline of 6 points.

Contd.....

(c) As per the SRS 2014-16, in the states of Haryana, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh an improvement has been recorded in Sex Ratio at Birth whereas decline has been recorded in the states of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.

States	2013-2015	2014-2016
Haryana	831	832
Rajasthan	861	857
Uttarakhand	844	850
Maharashtra	878	876
Himachal Pradesh	924	917
Chhattisgarh	961	963
Karnataka	939	935

Source: Sample Registration System (RGI)

(d) & (e): In view of the declining Child Sex Ratio and Sex Ratio at Birth, Government of India besides enactment of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and Rules has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for effective implementation of PC&PNDT Act and Rules and 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 in **Annexure-II**.

.....

Annexure-I

Sex Ratio (female per 1000 male) at Birth			
India and bigger States			
S.No.	India and bigger states/period*	2013-15	2014-16
	India	900	898
1.	Andhra Pradesh	918	913
2.	Assam	900	896
3.	Bihar	916	908
4.	Chhattisgarh	961	963
5.	Delhi	869	857
6.	Gujarat	854	848
7.	Haryana	831	832
8.	Himachal Pradesh	924	917
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	899	906
10.	Jharkhand	902	918
11.	Karnataka	939	935
12.	Kerala	967	959
13.	Madhya Pradesh	919	922
14.	Maharashtra	878	876
15.	Orissa	950	948
16.	Punjab	889	893
17.	Rajasthan	861	857
18.	Tamil Nadu	911	915
19.	Telangana	N.A.	901
20.	Uttar Pradesh	879	882
21.	Uttarakhand	844	850
22.	West Bengal	951	937

Source: Sample Registration System (RGI)

Annexure-II

- Regular inspections visits are conducted by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC). The Committee also recommends the District Appropriate Authorities to take appropriate action against clinics/Ultrasound Centres violating the PC & PNDT Act.
- Financial support and technical guidance is provided under National Health Mission (NHM) to States & UTs in order to strengthen implementation structures, setting up of dedicated PNDT Cells, capacity building, monitoring, and advocacy campaigns etc.
- Regular Capacity Building Programmes are conducted for State/ District Appropriate Authorities and State/ District Nodal Officers.
- Comprehensive Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) for District Appropriate Authority have been prepared and communicated to all the States/UTs.
- Regular regional review meetings are organised to review the progress in the States/UTs.
- 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 are periodically reviewed for ensuring their compliance.
- The Government has also set up a Nodal Agency to receive the complaints pertaining to 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 Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 16.11.2016 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 341 of 2008. The Nodal agency also forwards these complaints to the concerned search engines to remove such e-advertisements.
- National Scheme "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (BBBP) anchored by the Ministry of WCD in partnership with MOHFW and HRD, has been now extended to PAN India. Ministry of Health and FW has actively participated for creating awareness and capacity building on PC&PNDT Act in all the orientation programmes/multi-sectoral District Action Plans for the BBBP districts.
- Various IEC activities are carried out through print, electronic and mass media at the States /UTs level. States have been directed to plan appropriate Behaviour Change Communication campaigns and effectively implement provisions of the PC &PNDT Act. Awareness is generated through Print advertisements, social media platforms of twitter, facebook and You Tube.
- The orientation and sensitisation of judiciary has been conducted through National Judicial Academy.

.....