

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3364
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2020**

FEMALE FOETICIDE

**3364. SHRI CHIRAG KUMAR PASWAN:
SHRI P.C. MOHAN:
SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:
SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:**

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

- (a) the details of steps being taken by the Government to check female foeticide in the country, State/UT-wise including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan;
- (b) the number of illegal pre-natal sex determination centres identified during the last three years in the country, State/UT-wise, district-wise and the action taken against such centres;
- (c) whether such illegal pre-natal sex determination centres have been banned, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to spread awareness among the public against this social menace;
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaints against doctors, nurses and other Government staff for running private nursing homes or hospitals or working there; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon along with the number of doctors suspended or removed from the service?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): In view of the declining Child Sex Ratio and Sex Ratio at Birth the Government of India enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and Rules thereof. The Act prohibits the misuse of Pre-natal diagnostic techniques for determination of sex of the foetus leading to female foeticide and regulates the use of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic malformations or sex-linked disorders. The Government of India is taking followings steps /initiatives to ensure the effective implementation of the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 in the States/UTs including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan :

- 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
- Creating awareness through advocacy measures and Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns towards building a positive environment for the Girl Child
- Mechanisms are formulated at the National/ State level to monitor illegal e-advertisement for sex –selection on internet
- Rendering financial support to the States/UTs for strengthening implementation of the Act
- Efforts are taken to enhance convergence with the Scheme **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** (BBBP)

Details of initiatives undertaken is at **Annexure-I**

(b) & (c): As per the information received from the States/UTs, number of Centres conducting illegal pre-natal sex determination identified during the last three years are as under:

S. No.	State	Centres
1.	Rajasthan	12
2.	Chhattisgarh	03
3.	J & K	01
4.	Uttarakhand	16
5.	Telangana	10
6.	Jharkhand	01
7.	Punjab	23
8.	Gujarat	6
9.	Haryana	166
10.	Maharashtra	5
11.	Andhra Pradesh	2
12.	Karnataka	10
13.	Uttar Pradesh	52
14.	Tamil Nadu	9

All these centres conducting illegal pre-natal sex determination are sealed and registration under the PC&PNDT Act is suspended by District Appropriate Authorities (DAA). Subsequently, DAA file court cases against such clinics under the relevant provisions of the PC&PNDT Act.

Since, inception, till December, 2019 (As per Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) received from the states/ UTs), a total of **2,261** ultrasound machines have been sealed and seized, registration of **9413** centres have been suspended/ cancelled. Total of **3,092 ongoing court cases** all over the country filed by the District Appropriate Authorities (DAA) for violation of the law. Further, a total of **607** convictions have been secured and medical licenses of **142** doctors have been suspended/ cancelled following conviction.

(d): Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are carried out regularly through print, electronic and mass media at the National/ States /UTs level. States have been directed to plan appropriate behaviour change communication campaigns and widely disseminate information on the provisions of the PC &PNDT Act and Rules thereof.

Awareness is also generated through, social media platforms of twitter, facebook and You Tube. Details of various IEC activities carried out are at **Annexure: II**

(e) & (f): As per the information received from the States/UTs, complaints received against Government doctors, for running private nursing homes or hospitals are as under:

States/ UTs	No. Of Doctors	Action Taken
J & K	01	FIR filed
Telangana	07	Suspended
Maharashtra	08	4 Charge sheeted and action against 4 under process
Andhra Pradesh	01	Suspended

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

- a) Central Supervisory Board (CSB) an apex body under PC & PNDT Act is mandated to advise the central government on policy matter related to regulation of diagnostic techniques with the potential of sex selection and to review and monitor the implementation of this legislation. CSB is meeting regularly and 27th meeting was held on 11th October, 2019.
- b) Regular inspections of diagnostic facilities with the potential of sex selection including Genetic Counselling Centres, Genetic Laboratories and Genetic Clinics/ Ultrasound/ Imaging Centres are conducted on ground both from national as well as state level through Inspection and Monitoring Committees. National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) conducted 10 visits in FY 2019-20 including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka (till February 2020). State Inspection and Monitoring Committees conducted **62249** inspections in FY 2019-20 (till December 2019) including Bihar (**352**), Uttar Pradesh (**2784**), Karnataka (**3382**) and Rajasthan (**2516**).
- c) Regular meetings at the regional levels are conducted by the Central Government to review the implementation of PC&PNDT Act and to take stock of other related initiatives. During FY 2019-20 (till date), program review meeting for 22 States were conducted including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- d) Capacity Building of District/State Appropriate Authorities and PNDT Nodal Officers was conducted regularly. During FY 2019-20(till date), Capacity Building of the implementing Authorities/ Nodal officers of 9 States including Uttar Pradesh were facilitated by Central Government whereas in other states/ UTs including Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan training was conducted by the concerned State/UT Governments.
- e) Orientation and sensitization of judiciary is being conducted through the National Judicial Academy. This year till date, the National Judicial Academy conducted a two-days training program for 35 District Judges covering 11 States including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan. Further, state judicial academies are also conducting sensitisation of judicial officers and public prosecutors in coordination with State Health Departments including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- f) The Government of India is taking proactive action in removing and monitoring e-advertisements on sex-selection which are in violation of the PC&PNDT Act both at National and State/UT level.
- g) Under **National Health Mission** (NHM) various innovative initiatives including the giving of best village and Panchayat award, rewards to informers (on Sex Determination), conducting of decoy operations, online maintenance of records prescribed under the law are being supported in the States/ UTs including in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan. Further, financial support is rendered to strengthen implementation structures including the setting up of dedicated PNDT cells, holding capacity building sessions, launching advocacy campaign in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and all other States/UTs.
- h) The Government of India has launched *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* (BBBP) scheme to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio through focused intervention and multi-sectoral action. The tri-ministerial BBBP Scheme has been expanded Pan India covering all 640 districts as per Census 2011. Multi-sectoral intervention **is implemented in 405 Districts**, while all the 640 Districts are covered under media and advocacy campaign. Special focus is laid on the enforcement of PC&PNDT Act under the scheme.

SOME OF THE KEY IEC INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY STATES/UT

- ò Celebration of birth of Girl Child during festivals and cultural programs
- ò Felicitating parents with only daughters
- ò Plantation drives symbolizing nurturing and care for girl child
- ò Recognizing girl achievers in the community by District Administration
- ò Observe National Girl Child Day, International Women's Day
- ò Engaging religious leader for community sensitisation
- ò Pledge for protection, safety, value and education of the girl child
- ò Awareness drive at grassroots level with Gram Panchayats
- ò Sensitisation of frontline workers including ANM, ASHAs, Anganwadi workers
- ò Exhibition Vans for community engagement.
- ò Engagement with student through debates, seminars Sensitisation and orientation in schools, medical colleges, law schools , academic colleges and universities
- ò Community Engagement programmes –Nukkad Nataks, Signature Camapigns, Door to Door Contacts; Debates/Quizzes and rallies
- ò Under BBBP, radio spots, TV, SMS Campaign, field publicity are organized with the support of Song, Division and DAVP. An audio video package) comprising of pre-existing films, songs and other awareness raising material is disseminated to generate awareness To supplement media efforts, a dedicated YouTube channel on BBBP (<https://www.youtube.com/user/BetiBachaoBetiPadhao>) has been started where audio visual content for easy dissemination and sensitization is being shared on a regular basis. A mobile app on BBBP available on the M-GovAppstore is operational.