

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:23
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
DECLINING SEX RATIO
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL; UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the United Nations Population Fund's finding about India's declining child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated October 23, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the statistics mentioned by the UN agency are reasonably accurate;
- (d) if not, whether the Government propose to take up the issue with the United Nations Population Fund; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 23 FOR 3.12.2003

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The report refers to the child sex ratio at the national level, which has declined from 945 girls per 1000 boys in 1991 to 927 girls per 1000 boys in 2001. The situation is reported to be even worse in some States like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat where this ratio has declined to less than 900 girls per 1000 boys.

The above statistics are based on the Census 2001 figures. They are also reflected in a booklet 'Missing - Mapping the Adverse Child Sex Ratio in India' recently brought out by the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

(d) & (e): Questions do not arise.