

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1153
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006
GIRL CHILD
Gandhi Smt. Maneka;Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

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

- (a) whether any fresh initiative is being taken by the Government to save girl child in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any policy has been formulated by the Government to give incentives or benefits to the employees having only girl child but undergo family planning operation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the percentage of girl child in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b): The Government is continuously working towards ending the practice of female foeticide. 27949 Units conducting ultrasound tests have been registered in the country, as on 27.02.2006. There are 383 ongoing Count/Police Cases and 33 machines seized/sealed. Out of the total 383 violations reported, 37 are against communication of sex of the foetus.

The National Support and Monitoring Cell is being constituted as a mechanism to help Appropriate Authorities in apprehending actual wrong doer who are committing female foeticide/abetting female foeticide.

Ms Joshna Chinappa, Jr. and Sr. National and Asian Squash champion, is the brand Ambassador for 2005-06 for 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' launched with a view to lesson son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls.

With a view to sensitize the judiciary, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal was delegated the task of organizing training for trainers from State Judicial Academies. District Magistrates have been requested to regularly review the implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act along with other programmes in the district.

(c) & (d): No, Sir.

(e): It is recognized that mere Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act is not enough to deal with the problem that has roots in social behaviours and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television and Print Media Units. Workshops and Seminars have been organized at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against the social evil. Cooperation have also been sought from religious leaders as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. National Inspection and Monitoring Committee undertakes periodical visits to the vulnerable States/ districts to take stock of the ground reality and monitors the prosecutions launched against unregistered units and those violating provision of the Act/Rules and directions of the Supreme Court of India. Department of Women and Child Development runs schemes like Balika Samridhi Yojana, Kishori Shakti Yojana, Integrated Child Development Services for survival, development and protection of girl child.