

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3869
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPULATION
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a recent report of the National Commission on Population the male-female ratio in the country is likely to slide down to 930 females for every 1000 males from the present ratio of 933 females per 1000 males by the year 2026;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the effective steps taken by the Government to find the prevailing male-female ratio in each of the States in the country particularly Jharkhand and to ensure the implementation of ongoing and pending projects for development of women?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. According to the report of the Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the National Commission on Population under the chairmanship of Registrar General of India, the projected population characteristics as on 1st March 2001-2026 shows that the sex ratio is likely to reduce from 933 females per 1000 males as on 1st March 2001 to 932 on 1st March 2006 and 1st March 2011 and further reduce to 931 on 1st March 2016 and to 930 as on 1st March 2021 and 2026.

(c) As per information received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in order to check female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 is being implemented in the States including Jharkhand. This Act has since been amended and renamed as 'Pre Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 to make it more comprehensive. The technique of pre-conception sex selection has been brought within the ambit of this Act so as to pre-empt the use of such technologies towards declining sex ratio. Use of ultrasound machines has also been brought within the purview of this Act more explicitly so as to curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus lest it should lead to female foeticide. The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been further empowered for monitoring the implementation of the Act. State level Supervisory Boards in the line of the CSB constituted at the Centre has been introduced for monitoring of the Act in the States. More stringent punishment is prescribed under the Act so as to serve as a deterrent for minimizing violations of the Act. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to pre-conception selection of sex. The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking awareness and sensitization programmes for various stakeholders to reverse the falling female sex ratio.

The implementation of schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development for development of women in each State of the country including Jharkhand are monitored closely through State Government's Inspection Reports, Quarterly Progress Reports, Review meeting of State Nodal Officers and through field visits.