

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:383
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
FEMALE FOETICIDE
Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether female foeticide still continues in a big way in the country, particularly in Delhi, leading to alarming low sex ratio in the capital, according to a study conducted by an NGO and supported by the Centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has worked out some action plan/strategy to control such incidents of selective abortions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) The sex ratio in the 0-6 year's age group in India was 927 girls per 1000 boys according to the 2001 census.

Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population.

- (b) to (d) Centre for Social Research was sanctioned a grant for conduct a situational analysis of female foeticide in Delhi.

The report stated that there is a high incidence of female foeticide particularly in some areas of Delhi.

Sex ratio in Delhi as per 2001 census was 868. The efforts made by the Union Government include the Constitution of a National Inspection & Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for detecting violation of the Act and conducting of raids, Monitoring through the Central Supervisory Board under the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms, Sensitizing stake holders including the Judiciary and public prosecutors, holding of workshops/seminars and community awareness through Auxilliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), as well as facility for online filling of 'Form F' by clinics.