

## ***Priya Lok Pratinidhi – An information booklet for elected representatives***

A booklet titled *Priya Lok Pratinidhi (Dear Elected Representative)* was brought out to orient elected representatives on the issue of sex selection and involve them in addressing the problem of declining sex ratio. The book is a joint publication of the State Family Welfare Bureau, Government of Maharashtra, and United Nations Population Fund.

The book aims to sensitize elected representatives about the causes and implications of declining sex ratio and the salient features of the PCPNDT Act. The booklet further aims to motivate elected representatives to address the issue by playing the role of social police. This would lead to stopping the practice of sex selection, on the one hand, and ensuring systematic registration of births and making available data of birth of girls and boys to the community, on the other hand.

The booklet further provides block level data of child sex ratio from the 2011 census to enable elected representative take up a range of activities in their jurisdiction. It also enlists what elected representatives can do as individuals – report erring doctors and centers on the Government of Maharashtra website [www.amchimulgi.gov.in](http://www.amchimulgi.gov.in) or the toll free helpline number 18002334475.

The booklet details out activities that elected representatives can undertake for advocacy and action to address the issue of declining sex ratio like sensitization of Mahila Mandals and Youth Mandals on the issue; encouraging registration of births; welcoming birth of a girl child, undertaking campaigns to change mind sets and ensuring that key Implementing Authorities undertake regular inspection of clinics registered under the Act.