

8 November,Gangtok (IPR): A meeting of the State Advisory Committee under the PC & PNDT was held at the Conference Hall of the Health Care,Human Services and Family Welfare Department at the Secretariat today.

Chaired by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary/HC,HS&FWD-Shri.Vishal Chauhan, the meeting was also attended by the Member Secretary of the Committee,The State Nodal Officer and other officials and members of the Advisory Committee.

The meeting was primarily held to discuss and deliberate upon the issue of registration of clinics having USG (ultra sono graphy)machine for veterinary purposes. Further, the members also discussed issues related to the suspension and cancellation of the registration of USG clinics which were found to be in non-compliance of the guidelines of the Act during a previous inspection drive.

Recommendations like the issuance of registration to virtuous USG Clinics as per the guidelines of the PC & PNDT Act , relocation of the PC & PNDT Building and deadlines for the submission of NOC/Opt out NPA certificates of Doctors and USG users of Private Clinics were decided upon by the Committee.

The Commissioner-cum-Secretary/HC,HS&FWD, who is the Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee called for timely and correct collection of information on the PNDT to be submitted to the Central Government. He stressed on the strengthening of the PNDT Cell of the State Government and solicited strict vigilance and combined efforts from the members of the Advisory Committee.

It may be informed here that the PC& PNDT ACT (Pre-Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act) has been enacted by the Parliament of India to stop female foeticides and tackle the alarmingly declining sex ratio in the country. The act that was assented in 1994 and commenced from 1996 bans prenatal sex determination and regulates prenatal diagnostic techniques like ultrasound and amniocentesis .

In Sikkim , the Act is being meticulously implemented with the State Advisory Committee and the District Advisory Committees working assiduously to ban the

use of sex selection techniques after conception and prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex selective abortion.

