

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 725
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH JULY, 2024**

CASES OF INFERTILITY

725. MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that as per the census report of 2001 and 2011 in the country, the rate of childlessness/sterility has increased by 50 percent, out of 10 couples near about 6 couples facing infertility problems;
- (b) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to include infertility treatments, such as IVF, in the reimbursement policies, especially for Union and State Government employees, as well as under private insurance schemes, to ensure financial support for those undergoing treatment;
- (c) Whether the Government has considered the inclusion of infertility treatments in existing national health schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat Yojana) to make these treatments accessible/affordable for economically disadvantaged populations across the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase public awareness about infertility, its causes/available treatments and to provide psycho-emotional support for affected couples?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

- (a) The census reports of 2001 and 2011 do not confirm the statement.
- (b) IVF treatment expenses for beneficiaries under the Central Government Health Scheme and Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944 are eligible for reimbursement with certain conditions.
- (c) Government has not included infertility treatments under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- (d) Government has introduced the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 w.e.f. 25.01.2022 which regulates Assisted Reproductive Technology clinics and banks in order to ensure safe and ethical practices of assisted reproductive technology services for

addressing the issues of reproductive health where assisted reproductive technology is required. It also prohibits misuse, ensures confidentiality, and prescribes penalties for violations. Government has also introduced the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 w.e.f. 25.01.2022 which bans commercial surrogacy, prevents exploitation of poor vulnerable women, allows altruistic surrogacy, and ensures informed consent and legal safeguards. It establishes National and State Surrogacy Boards, mandates clinic registration, and prescribes penalties for violations. Both these Acts are being implemented to create a transparent and informed environment to address the issue of infertility in the country.
