

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:758
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
INFERTILITY IN WOMEN
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether the Government is concerned over the disastrous social consequences of infertility in women as reported in The Hindu dated October 04, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to include infertility in primary healthcare under the National Rural Health Mission and for the management of violence against women?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Infertility, though not a life threatening condition can cause intense agony and trauma to the infertile couple. The increasing demand for Assisted Reproductive Technology has resulted in mushrooming of infertility clinics in India. In order to regulate and supervise the ART Clinic, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Academy of Medical Sciences has prepared National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India. Union Government has approved the National Guidelines and circulated to the States for accreditation, supervision and regulation of ART Clinics.

(c): Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) is a highly technical field where all forms of infertility cannot be treated with 100% success. At the Primary Health Care level awareness, counseling, guidance and assurance can be done by the Medical Officers and para-medical staff. As regards management of violence against women is concerned, Parliament has enacted Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 (No. 43 of 2005). Union Government has published the Act in the Gazette of India on 14th September, 2005. State /UT Governments are required to take action under the Act for management of violence against women. Some other measures are:

setting up help lines for women in distress.

support services to victims through schemes such as short stay homes and swadhar under which shelter maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided.

Redressal of grievances through interventions of National and state Commissions for Women.