

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2503
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010
UNSAFE ABORTION
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether India has the highest number of unsafe abortions in the world as per various surveys undertaken in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a large number of maternal deaths are caused in the country on account of the unsafe abortions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(e) There is no National level survey data on the number of unsafe abortions in India.

As per survey data on the causes of maternal deaths from the Registrar General of India –Sample Registration System (RGI-SRS) 2001-03, 8% of the maternal deaths in India are abortion-related. Abortions are regulated under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act), 1971. The implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme within the umbrella of the National Rural Health Mission one of the key strategies to reduce the maternal deaths in the country is the provision of safe, affordable and accessible abortion services to women in the public and private sector health facilities. Under this programme, public sector health facilities including District Hospitals, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres are being operationalised for providing safe abortion services. Funds are being provided to the states for training of medical officers in safe abortion techniques, and procurement of equipment and drugs etc.

Other measures being implemented are accreditation of private sector health facilities by the states through District level committees for providing safe abortion services and creating awareness among women and the community on abortion issues through education and counselling by sub-centre ANMs, ASHAs and other health functionaries.