

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:407  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012  
UNSAFE ABORTIONS  
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether according to the latest report of the World Health Organisation and a New York based institute, despite abortion laws, 66 per cent of abortions in India use unsafe route;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is planning to launch a campaign to spread awareness for adoption of safe abortion; and
- (d) if so, the details thereor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 407 FOR 4.05.2012

(a)&(b): As per the estimates published by researchers from Guttmacher Institute, New York and the World Health Organization in the Lancet in January, 2012, unsafe abortions constitute 65% of the total abortions in the South Central Asia sub-region. Estimates of the proportion of Unsafe Abortions are not provided separately for India which is one of the countries in this sub-region.

(c)&(d): Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Reproductive and Child Health Program under its umbrella, for creating awareness of Safe Abortion Services, the following steps have been taken:

Guidelines on "Comprehensive Abortion Care" have been disseminated by the Government of India to all the States/UTs which include elements of counseling women before and after conducting an abortion.

Funds are provided to the States/UTs under NRHM for planning and implementation of comprehensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC)/Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities for maternal health which also includes Safe Abortion Care.

Orientation of ASHAs on different aspects of Safe Abortion Care is an integral part of their training in order to equip them with the skills to create awareness on abortion issues in the women and the community and facilitate women in accessing services for Safe Abortion Care.