

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5964
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2012
ABORTIONS
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) the number of abortions recorded during the last three years;
- (b) the number of abortions and percentage of unsafe abortions out of them during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in reducing unsafe abortions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

- (a) & (b) National level data on the total number of abortions and percentage of unsafe abortions is not available.
- (c) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Reproductive and Child Health programme within its umbrella, measures taken by the Government of India to provide services for Safe Abortion Care and reduce unsafe abortions in the country include :
 - # Dissemination of Comprehensive Abortion Care–Service Delivery and Training Guidelines to States.
 - # Provision of comprehensive safe abortion services at public health facilities including 247 PHCs/ FRUs (DHs/ SDHs /CHCs).
 - # Provision of funds to States/ UTs for operationalisation of safe abortion services at health facilities including procurement of equipment and drugs for medical abortion.
 - # Capacity Building of Medical officers in Safe Abortion Techniques and of ANMs, ASHAs and other field functionaries to provide confidential counseling for safe abortion and promote post-abortion care including adoption of contraception.
 - # Certification of private and NGO sector facilities to provide quality abortion services.
 - # Supply of Nischay Pregnancy detection kits to sub centres for early detection of pregnancy.
 - # Sensitization Workshops on Comprehensive Abortion Care are being held in States.
 - # Provision of Funds to States to plan and implement comprehensive "Information Education & Communication/ Behaviour Change Communication (IEC/BCC)" activities for maternal health including safe abortion care.
 - # Orientation/Training of ASHAs to equip them with skills to create awareness on abortion issues in women and the community and facilitate women in accessing services.
 - # Under the Family Planning Strategy, to reduce unintended pregnancies which can lead to unsafe induced abortion, steps have been taken to provide a basket of choices of contraceptive services and family planning counseling to the beneficiaries.