

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2721  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009  
UNSAFE ABORTIONS  
Shekhar Shri Neeraj

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

- (a) whether abortions are unsafe in our country according to the report "Abortion Worldwide: A Decade of Uneven Progress" published by Guttmacher Institute,US;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether thousands of women have to undergo for treatment for several complications resulting from unsafe abortions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check this problem?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (e): The report titled Abortion World Wide: A Decade of uneven progress published by Guttmacher Institute, US, estimates that in 2003, 3.3 millions safe abortions and 6.3 millions un-safe abortions were conducted in South Central Asia which includes India. The report further says that in India abortion has been legal for more than 3 decades and a recent analysis estimated that 3 un-safe abortions are performed for every 2 safe ones.

It is difficult to estimate the number of unsafe abortions due to the associated secrecy with it. No reliable data exists on the incidence of unsafe abortion and the resulting complications in India. The Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR) in 1983-1985 carried out a study in five states of India, i.e. Haryana, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The study estimates that the extent of unsafe abortion was 13.3 per 1000 pregnancies.

Abortion, when performed by a trained provider through appropriate technology is one of the safest medical procedures. However, there is significant risk of post-abortion complications when performed by untrained, unsafe providers which includes incomplete abortion, missed & failed abortions with severe bleeding, perforation and injuries to organs.

Under the National Rural Health Mission and the Reproductive and Child Programme, phase II within its umbrella, one of the key strategies to reduce the maternal mortality in the country is the provision of safe, affordable and accessible abortion services to women in the public and private sector health facilities, as per the mandate of the amended Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, Rules and Regulation, (2002-03). Under the Mission, safe abortion services are provided at all public sector health facilities particularly at 247 PHCs, CHCs/FRUs, DHs and above as per the provisions of amended MTP Act, Rules and Regulation,(2002-03).