

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 841
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018**

UNSAFE ABORTION PROCEDURES

841. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that despite being legal for the last four decades almost 60 per cent procedures of abortion conducted in the country are unsafe and falling far behind normal and safe practices;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted an enquiry into the matter with specific references on the impact of unsafe abortions suffered by women in low income and low education bracket in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether recommendation by an expert committee has been vetted by the Government suggesting creation of facilities in various rural clinics; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Data on the number of unsafe abortions in the country is not presently available in any National Level Survey

(b) & (c): No specific enquiry has been conducted with specific reference on the impact of unsafe abortion suffered by women in low income and low education bracket in rural areas.

(d) & (e): National consultations have been done with participants from all States/UTs and decision taken in the consultations were implemented for providing safe comprehensive abortion services.

Provision of comprehensive safe abortion care services is an important component of RMNCH+A program under Govt. of India.

National Health Mission (NHM), is providing support to the states for providing services for Safe Abortion and to reduce unsafe abortions in the country which include:

- Dissemination of Comprehensive Abortion Care–Service Delivery and Training Guidelines to States.

- Provision of comprehensive safe abortion services at public health facilities including 24*7 PHCs/ FRUs (DHs/ SDHs /CHCs) & Medical colleges.
- 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 safe 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.
- Recently a guidance note for formation of Medical board for Termination of Pregnancy beyond 20 Weeks of Gestation as and when ordered by the courts has been sent to the States and Union Territories (UTs).