

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2125
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
ARTIFICIAL REPRODUCTION
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan

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

- (a) whether the sale and purchase of sperms and ovule are unethical trading in the name of surrogate mother by the clinics engaged in artificial reproduction work;
- (b) the details of clinics engaged in the artificial reproduction work as on date, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to check such practice in this regard;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has asked Indian Council for Medical Research for formulating guidelines for such clinics; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) involves use of donor ovum/sperm/ embryo for treatment of infertile couple. There is chance of some clinics indulging in sale and purchase of sperm and ovum and unethical trading in the name of surrogate mother.
- (b) There is no reliable information on the number of infertile clinics in India in the absence of a National Registry. However, approximate estimate of ART Clinics Statewise is placed at Annexure-I.
- (c) The Ministry has drafted a Bill to Supervise and Regulate ART Clinics in India and has circulated the draft Bill to all States/UTs Governments for their comments. The draft Bill along with comments received from State Governments have been sent to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for evaluation by experts.
- (d) Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Academy of National Sciences has prepared National Guideline for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India. The Guidelines have been approved by this Ministry and circulated in November, 2005 to all State/UT Governments for Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics.
- (e) Important salient features of the Guideline is placed at Annexure-II.