

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3882

ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017

PNDT Act

Pala Shri Vincent H;Singh Shri Bhola;Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

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

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of a study by the Lancet (2012), according to which 12 million sex selective abortions have been conducted in India over the last three decades, if so, measures the Government intends to implement to curb sex selective abortions;

(b) the number of cases that have been registered under PNDT Act in the country, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether unsafe abortions are a leading cause for increase in maternal mortality rates, if so, steps taken by the Government to reduce unsafe abortions in the country; country went on a indefinite strike against what they termed were unreasonable provisions of the Pre-Conception and Pre- Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has agreed to review the matter in the larger interest of public and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND

FAMILY WELFARE

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): No. However, the Government has enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, for prohibition of sex selection before or after conception and for prevention of misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination.

(b): As per the quarterly progress report (QPR) received from States/ UTs, a total of 2316 court cases have been filed by the District Appropriate Authorities for violating the provisions of the PC&PNDT Act and Rules. State/UT-wise such data is enclosed as Annexure.

(c): As per Sample Registration System (2001-03), Registrar General of India, unsafe abortion is reported to be the third largest cause for maternal mortality in India and nearly 8% of maternal deaths are due to unsafe abortion. Under the National Health Mission (NHM) and Reproductive and Child Health Programme within its umbrella, several measures have been taken by Government of India to provide services for Safe Abortions Care and reduce unsafe abortions in the country. Some of these measures are as under:-
• Framing and dissemination of Comprehensive Abortion Care – Service Delivery and Training Guidelines to States/UTs.
• Provision of safe abortion services at Public Health Facilities including 24*7 PHCs/FRUs(DHs/SDHs/CHCs)

• Formation of District Level Committees for certification of eligible private and NGO Sector facilities to provide quality abortion services.

• Provision of funds to the States/UTs for operationalization of safe abortion services at Health facilities including procurement of equipments, drugs for medical abortion and Information Education & Communication/behaviour change communication.

• Capacity building of medical officers in safe abortion techniques and of the ANM/ASHA/other field functionaries to provide confidential counselling for safe abortion and post abortion care.

(d) & (e): Yes. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare received a representation from Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) regarding strike of radiologists.

In 25th Meeting of Central Supervisory Board (CSB) held on 5th January, 2017, issues raised by the IRIA were discussed. The Central Supervisory Board after due deliberations recommended that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare may take the advice of Ministry of Law and Justice in this regard and appropriate steps may be taken accordingly.