

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 473
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2026

PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM ILLEGAL IVF AND SONOGRAPHY CENTRES

473. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of reports regarding exploitation of women through illegal IVF and sonography centres, particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, State-wise details of complaints received, cases registered, inspections conducted, licences suspended or cancelled and action taken during the last three years, with separate details for Maharashtra;
- (c) whether Government has reviewed the implementation of safeguards for protection of women undergoing fertility treatment; and
- (d) the measures taken to prevent exploitation and strengthen monitoring and awareness in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The Government has taken cognizance of reports and complaints relating to alleged irregularities, unethical practices and exploitation of women involving Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and surrogacy clinics. Whenever such matters come to the notice, they are, in the first instance, forwarded to the concerned State/UT Appropriate Authority, which is the primary regulatory and enforcement authority responsible for implementation of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021. The State/UT Appropriate Authority thereafter conducts inspection/investigation, verifies the facts and records, collects evidence, and takes appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Acts and the Rules made thereunder. A total number of 02 complaints have been received alleging exploitation of women in the State of Maharashtra.

The state-wise list of complaints involving exploitation of women during the last three years received by Department of Health Research (DHR) is at **Annexure**. The “exploitation of women”

has been construed to mean complaints involving practices that result in serious harm or pose a risk to the life or health of women, or involve commercial exploitation of surrogate mothers or oocyte donors, including illegal extraction of oocytes and repeated ovarian stimulation in violation of the provisions of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 & Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 and the rules made thereunder.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 prescribe a comprehensive regulatory framework and several statutory safeguards to prevent exploitation and ensure ethical and safe provision of ART and surrogacy services, including:

- i. Mandatory registration of all ART clinics and ART banks under the ART (Regulation) Act, 2021.
- ii. Constitution of the Regulatory Authorities at Central and state level such as National Board, State Boards and State/UT Appropriate Authorities for regulation, supervision, inspection and enforcement of the provisions of the Acts.
- iii. Periodic inspections of registered ART clinics and banks and initiation of action, including suspension or cancellation of registration and prosecution, in cases of violations.
- iv. Prohibition on sale, transfer or commercial use of gametes, zygotes and embryos, except as permitted under the Act, thereby preventing misuse and trafficking.
- v. Stringent penal provisions including imprisonment and fines for exploitation of commissioning couples, women, surrogate mothers or gamete donors and other violations which act as a deterrent against unethical practices.
- vi. Mandatory insurance coverage and compensation for oocyte donors & surrogate mothers for specified loss, medical complications or death.
- vii. Prohibition of sex selection and compliance with the provisions of the PCPNDT Act, wherever applicable.
- viii. Prescribed eligibility criteria, including age limits, for intending couples/women, donors and surrogate mothers to ensure that ART and surrogacy procedures are undertaken in a safe and ethical manner.
- ix. Pre-procedure counselling is required to ensure that parties understand the procedure, risks, success rates and alternatives.
- x. Confidentiality of patient and donor information is protected, and disclosure is permitted only in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
- xi. Regulation of the number of embryos that may be transferred into the uterus of a woman to reduce the risk of multiple pregnancies and associated maternal complications.

- xii. Restriction that an oocyte donor may donate only once in her lifetime and that no more than seven oocytes may be retrieved from an oocyte donor to safeguard the health of women undergoing ART procedures.
- xiii. Statutory duties and responsibilities have been prescribed for ART banks to ensure proper screening, conduct ethical procedures, record maintenance, traceability and handling of gametes.
- xiv. The Acts also prescribe safeguards relating to informed consent, counselling, confidentiality of records and maintenance of medical records to protect the rights and interests of patients, donors and surrogate mothers.

The Government of India has also enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 to provide for the prohibition of sex selection, before or after conception, and for regulation of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic abnormalities or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of their misuse for sex determination leading to female foeticide and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Under Section 17 of the PC&PNDT Act, State/UT Appropriate Authorities are notified for the implementation of the Act in their respective State/UTs including in the State of Maharashtra. The Act empowers the Appropriate Authorities to regulate through granting, suspending or cancelling registration of the USG Centers and to enforce the provisions of the act by conducting inspections and taking legal actions against the violators of the Act. The actions taken by the Union and State Governments for monitoring and awareness are mentioned below:

- i. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Ministry provides financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen implementation of the PC&PNDT Act.
- ii. Nodal Agency constituted to monitor & facilitate the removal of online advertisements violating the provisions of the Act.
- iii. Sensitization and capacity building activities of States & UTs are held regularly.
- iv. Regular review & assessment through various institutional mechanisms like Central Supervisory Board (CSB), State Supervisory Board (SSB) and Common Review Mission (CRM) visits carried out by the Centre in coordination with the states.
- v. Regular monitoring and inspection visits are carried out at the State & district level.
- vi. Information, Education & Communication, advocacy activities, including public awareness drives through print and digital media are undertaken to promote behavioural change and gender equality.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 473 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2026 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM ILLEGAL IVF AND SONOGRAPHY CENTRES.

State wise status of complaints relating to Exploitation of Women

Sl. No.	State	No. of complaints	Subject in brief	Centre (clinic/Bank)	Status of complaint
1	Delhi	01	Trafficking & Illegal commercial surrogacy practices	1. Gaudium Women's Hospital Janakpuri Delhi 2. Gaudium IVF 9 Greater Kailash Delhi.	Under Investigation
2	Haryana	01	Illegal commercial surrogacy and unethical IVF practices.	Fertility Cure Clinic, Gurugram	FIR Registered, Center sealed Under Investigation
3	Karnataka	02	Illegal stimulation and extraction of donor oocytes, unethical IVF practices	Dr. Aravind's IVF Pvt. Ltd.	Under Investigation
			Illegal sale of baby girls and exploitation of surrogate mother	1. Vriksh Fertility 2. Oasis Fertility 3. Aspire Fertility Centre	Under Investigation

4	Kerala	02	Illegal stimulation and extraction of donor oocytes, unethical IVF practices	Dr. Aravind's IVF Pvt. Ltd.	Under Investigation
			Illegal surrogacy and oocyte donation racket.	Mamamia ART Bank	FIR Registered, License cancelled Under Investigation
5	Maharashtra	02	Illegal oocyte donation racket	Malti IVF, Badlapur & Thane	FIR Registered, License cancelled Under Investigation
			Alleged repeated oocyte donation and financial inducement of oocyte donors	Siyara Fertility Bank	Under Investigation
6	Rajasthan	04	Illegal stimulation and exploitation of woman for oocyte donation.	1. Neelkantha IVF Zivia IVF	As per report of State Appropriate Authority no violations found.
			Illegal oocyte donation	Pratap IVF, Kanwantiya Hospital	License Cancelled
			Illegal oocyte extraction and use of donor oocyte	Alka IVF Centre	Under Investigation

			Trafficking and illegal oocyte extraction from young women	Amar Ashish Hospital & centers	Under Investigation
7	Tamil Nadu	01	Illegal stimulation and extraction of donor oocytes, unethical IVF practices	Dr. Aravind's IVF Pvt. Ltd.	Under Investigation
8	Telangana	01	Illegal commercial surrogacy racket	Universal Srushti IVF Centre, Hyderabad	FIR's Registered Under Investigation
9	Uttar Pradesh	02	Illegal commercial egg donation through paid Intermediaries	Jeevandeep Hospital	Under Investigation
			Facilitating illegal commercial surrogacy, using their renter Rajni	Mr. Ravi Chaudhary & Mrs. Meenakshi	Under Investigation
10	Andhra Pradesh	01	Fraudulent Egg Pickup Procedure and embryo transfer	Nova IVF Fertility center	As per report of State Appropriate Authority no evidence was found against the clinic
Total complaints		17			
