

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2867
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2018**

MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL

**2867. DR SANJAY JAISWAL: DR. A. SAMPATH:
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to review and strengthen the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Bill, 2014;
- (b) the timelines set in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to treat advanced pregnancies of minor rape victims and those of women with fetal abnormalities as exceptions and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by the Government regarding the Supreme Court directives to set up State medical boards to expedite action in abortion cases?

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare conducted extensive consultative process (initiated in 2006) with experts representing Central Ministries and Departments including AYUSH, NGOs, academic institutions, State Governments, professional associations including Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies (FOGSI), Indian Medical Association(IMA) Indian Nursing Council (INC), civil society representatives and lawyers, with the objective of proposing suitable amendments. Inputs were also sought from National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Following the inter-ministerial consultations, the draft Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was placed in public domain for comments. Taking into account both the public opinion and the recommendations from the deliberations, the proposed MTP (Amendment) Bill, 2018 has been drafted and is under consultative process for finalization.

Contd.....

(c): The proposed amendments to MTP Act 1971 focuses on improving the scope of legal access to treat advanced pregnancies of minor rape victims and those of women with fetal abnormalities.

(d): As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, State/UT Governments have been asked to constitute Permanent Medical Boards in each State for urgent examination of cases referred to by the Hon'ble District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court for MTP beyond 20 weeks so that immediate opinion can be given and urgent action can be taken.

Till date 17 states/UTs have informed to have constituted the permanent Medical Board and others are in the process of constituting the Medical boards.

.....