

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 599
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th JULY, 2018**

UNSAFE ABORTION

599. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that despite being legal for the last four decades almost 60 percent procedures of abortion conducted in the country are unsafe and falling far behind normal and safe practices and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted an enquiry into the matter with specific references on the impact of unsafe abortions suffered by women in rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (d) whether any recommendation by any expert committee has been vetted by the Government suggesting creation of facilities in various rural clinics; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent unsafe/illegal abortions in the country?

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

(a) to (c):

- Studies on the prevalence and trends of unsafe abortion in India are extremely limited. There is no direct evidence on the proportion of abortion conducted under unsafe conditions in India.
- According to National Health and Family Survey 4 (2015-16) 47% of the abortion are conducted by Nurse or ANM, or LHV, Dai, family members, and self, while the 53% abortions are performed by a medical doctor.
- The survey also reports around one-third (27.4%) of abortion are conducted at home and 19% women faced complications after abortion.
- No specific enquiry has been conducted with references of the impact of unsafe abortion on women in rural areas.

(d) & (e): Provision of comprehensive safe abortion care services is an important component of RMNCH+A program under Govt. of India.

National consultations have been done with participants from States/UTs and decision taken in the consultations were implemented for providing safe comprehensive abortion services.

National Health Mission (NHM) provides support to the states for provision of Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) throughout the country. Steps taken to reduce unsafe abortions in the country which include:

- CAC Service Delivery and Training Guidelines issued across the country. National CAC Training and Service Delivery Guidelines were developed in 2010 and an updated CAC Training Package was released in 2014.
- Operationalization of CAC services at public health facilities including 24*7 PHCs/ FRUs (DHs/ SDHs /CHCs).
- Establishment of Model CAC Centres across states to demonstrate quality in CAC training and service delivery is also being implemented.
- Supply of Nischay Pregnancy detection kits to sub centres for early detection of pregnancy.
- Capacity Building of Medical Officers (MOs) in Safe Abortion Techniques and of ANMs, ASHAs to facilitate awareness generation and counselling.
- Medical Methods of Abortion Re-orientation Package based on e-learning modules has also been implemented for capacity building of MOs.
- Provision of funds to states/ UTs for
 1. Procurement of equipment and drugs
 2. Implementation of Information Education & Communication/ Behaviour Change Communication (IEC/BCC) activities
- Authorization and certification of private and NGO sector facilities to provide quality abortion services.
- Steps have been taken to promote and provide post-abortion contraceptive services and family planning counseling to the beneficiaries.
- Regular monitoring of CAC data and planning of further steps based on its analysis is also undertaken.