

In order to curtail and eliminate the sex selective foeticide, the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 banning disclosures of sex of foetus is in operation since 1st January, 1996, in all States and UT except J&K. The responsibility for implementation of the Act rests largely with the States/Union Territories.

In addition to national level publicity in print and electronic media against the evil of sex determination of foetus and about the provisions of the Act, the States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental organizations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/District level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding creating awareness about the provisions of the Act.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take on projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large.

A meeting of the Appropriate Authorities of States/UTs under the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was held on 30th June, 2001 in New Delhi for sensitizing them to take effective steps for enforcement of the law and for creating awareness at the grass root level.

News-item "Sarkari Aspatalon Mein Marijon Se Paise Vasoolne Ka Prastav"

† 824. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[30 July, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Sarkari Aspatalon Mein Marijon Se Paise Vasoolne Ka Prastav" which appeared in the Navbharat Times, dated 5th June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether charging of money from poor patients in place of providing free medical services in Government hospitals is not against the concept of a Welfare State; and

(d) what effective steps Government have, so far, taken with regard to providing free medical services to about 36 crore poor people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The new National Health Policy is under formulation. Various alternatives including recovery of user charges from those who have the capacity to pay are under consideration to augment the much needed resources for providing better health care services to the poor.

Maltreatment by Nursing Home

825. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "They threw a pregnant woman out to die. Nursing Home wanted Rs.11,000 before surgery to remove dead foetus", which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 6th May, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether licence of this Nursing Home has been cancelled in view of the seriousness of the case; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.