

.. **Illegal Abotions** ..

2649. SHRI KISHOR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press reports to the effect that large number of women die in the country every year because of continuing illegal abortions;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government in the matter especially against those who are clandestinely indulging in such criminal actions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c) No specific press reports have been brought to the notice of the Government. However, the Government has already taken steps to prevent deaths due to septic abortion by improving the medical facilities in hospitals and Primary Health Centres, as well as Providing training to doctors, and equipment to sub-divisional hospitals and Primary Health Centres so as to increase the availability and improve the quality of services in the country to enable women seeking abortion care, according to the law. Besides this, there are legal provision to curb illegal abortions by quacks.

.. **Killer Disease in Ahmedabad**

2650. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of 6th August, 1984 regarding "Killer disease" at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the number of people who died due to this disease in various hospitals there; and

(d) what action has been taken to control the disease?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the news report. The outbreak of Viral Hepatitis in the State of Gujarat has been investigated by National Institute of Communicable Diseases Delhi, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune. On investigation the causative agents were found to be Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis-A and Non-A, Non-B Virus.

According to the reports received from the State Health Authorities approximately 805 deaths due to Viral Hepatitis has been reported during 1984, (upto 16th August, 1984) in the State of Gujarat including 423 deaths (upto 28-7-84) from Ahmedabad Corporation.

The Preventive measures taken include Isolation of Jaundice cases in special Isolation Wards, strict enforcement of asepsis, use of disposable syringes and needles and I.V. Infusion sets, fumigation of all the wards and operation theatres in the hospitals, empowering District Magistrates under the Epidemic Diseases Act (1897) to take preventive steps, delegating special powers to Commissioners of Municipal Corporation under the Bombay Provincial Municipal Act, intensification of health education, activating all the local bodies to safeguard public water system against contamination etc. The Union Government has assisted in procuring Hepatitis-B-Globulin.

**Setting up of Population Advisory Committees**

2651. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Population Advisory Committees in different States;

(b) whether such a Committee has already been set up at the Centre;