

**EXPERT COMMITTEE ON IUCD**

87, SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee has been appointed by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning to review the experience of IUCD expulsions and bleeding; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of this committee?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) No separate expert Committee to review only the experience of IUCD expulsions and bleeding has been appointed by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning. However, a Committee was constituted to consider all technical problems connected with Family Planning Programme in the field with particular reference to IUCD and Sterlization procedures and advise the Government in regard thereto. Review of the experience of IUCD expulsions and bleeding is covered in these terms of the Committee.

(b) As mentioned against (a) above.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH**

88, SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government on the recommendation made by the Central Council of Health in its meeting held in Srinagar in 1964 regarding liberal assistance to drainage programme in urban areas; and

(b) if so, the nature of the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) and (b) It has been proposed that for sewerage schemes, a subsidy of 25 per cent. which will be shared equally between the Central and the State Government

be given during the 4th Plan period provided sewage is used for agricultural purposes. Necessary orders in this regard will be issued as soon as a final decision is taken by the Government.

**SHAH COMMITTEE ON ABORTION**

89, SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shantilal Shah Committee has recommended that the present law on abortion should be liberalised; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the recommendations of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement containing the main features of the recommendations is attached.

**STATEMENT**

The Shantilal H. Shah Committee considers that the present law of abortion in India is too restrictive and has therefore recommended that it should be liberalised to allow termination of pregnancy by a qualified medical practitioner acting in good faith not only for saving the pregnant women's life but also:—

(a) When the continuance of the pregnancy would involve serious risk to the life, or grave injury to the health, whether physical or mental, of the pregnant woman, whether before, at, or after the birth; or,

(b) When there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped in life; or

- (c) When the pregnancy results from rape, intercourse with an unmarried girl under the age of 16 or intercourse with a mentally defective woman.

2. The Committee has also recommended that the following conditions be complied with in connection with any treatment for the termination of a pregnancy, that is to say:—

- (a) Abortions authorised under the above recommendation can be performed only by a person who holds a qualification granted by an authority specified or notified in any of the schedules to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956) as modified upto the 1st December, 1964.
- (b) The Treatment must be carried out in a place for the time being approved for the purpose, by the Government of India or State Government;
- (c) The opinion must be certified in writing by the practitioner who carries out the termination of pregnancy before the treatment is begun;
- (d) There has been before treatment a consent in writing by the pregnant woman, or, if under 18 years of age, by the pregnant girl and one of her parents or of the pregnant girl and her guardian for the termination of the pregnancy.

Provided that where the practitioner is of the opinion, formed in good faith, that the termination is immediately necessary in order to save the life of the pregnant woman and certified his opinion in writing either before or after carrying out the treatment, conditions (b) and (d) need not be complied with.

The Government should prescribe rules requiring the qualified medical practitioner who terminates a pregnancy to give notice of the termina-

tion, and such other information relating to the termination as may be prescribed by the regulations within such period as may be prescribed and with respect to the disposal of certificates.

The information so furnished shall not be made public or divulged to any person other than a police officer especially authorised to obtain such information or under order of a Court of Law.

3. The Committee has also strongly recommended that:—

- (a) In order to prevent the danger of repeated abortions in the case of women who are not fit to bear the strain of further pregnancies the medical practitioners should advise the woman and/or her husband to undergo voluntary sterilisation.
- (b) The idea of a small family norm achieved through control of conception should be vigorously promoted.
- (c) Readily accessible services for family planning should be extended, and
- (d) Family Life Education to develop healthy and responsible attitudes towards sex, marriage and parenthood should be promoted.

#### L.I.C. EMPLOYEES DEMANDS

90. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Life Insurance Employees' Federation has recently urged the Government and the Life Insurance Corporation for payment of city compensatory allowance and for the linking of the dearness allowance to the cost of living index for class III and class IV employees the L.I.C.; and