

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Procurement of neonatal care equipments under NRHM**

5024. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is providing funds to State Governments under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to procure material and neonatal care equipments at facilities to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are no standards for such equipments and no regulation barring entry of unsafe, non-standard equipment into the market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government for installation of effective neonatal care equipments in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. Funds are released under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to all State/UTs as per approved Annual Programme Implementation Plan.

(b) and (c) No. The maternal and neonatal care equipments are procured by the States and UTs as per State Procurement plans. However, as per facility based newborn care operation guidelines of Government of India (MOHFW, 2011), conduct of power audit is recommend for installation of equipment and a list of essential and desirable newborn care equipments has been provided therein.

**Prevention of female foeticide**

5025. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the fourth most dangerous country for women, female foeticide being the key reasons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to avoid such occurrences in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no such assessment by any UN or Inter-governmental agency. However, as per the Thomas Reuters Foundation Survey, India is ranked 4th based on the overall perception of 213 gender experts from 5