

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also setting up a universal helpline designed to support women affected by violence both in public and private places including the family, community workplace etc.

There is no centralized data available with the Ministry of Home Affairs on number of women safety/emergency helplines operating in the country.

Citizenship to children born to a surrogate Indian mother

2288. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sought to clarify its stand on the citizenship of children born *via* an Indian surrogate mother in India, but whose biological mother is a foreign national;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to avoid legal problems that would arise due to the birth of such children to surrogate mother in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) This Ministry has already developed guidelines for the foreign nationals intending to visit India for commissioning surrogacy. These guidelines have been notified *vide* our letter no. F No.25022/74/2011-FI dated 9th July, 2012 and have also been circulated to all the Indian missions/posts.

(c) The following provisions have been made under these guidelines for the foreign nationals coming to India for commissioning surrogacy:

1. The appropriate VISA category for the foreign nationals coming to India for commissioning surrogacy will be "Medical Visa".
2. It will also be necessary in such cases to ensure that the surrogate mother is not cheated. Therefore such a visa may only be granted if the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - (i) The foreign man and woman are duly married and the marriage should have sustained at least for two years.
 - (ii) A letter from the Embassy of the foreign country in India or the Foreign Ministry of the country should be enclosed with the Visa application stating clearly that (a) the country recognizes surrogacy and (b) the child/children to be born to the commissioning couple through the Indian surrogate mother will be permitted entry into their country as a biological child/children of the couple commissioning surrogacy.

- (iii) The couple will furnish an undertaking that they would take care of the child/children born through surrogacy.
 - (iv) The treatment should be done only at one of the registered Assisted Reproduce Technology (ART) clinics recognized by ICMR. (The list of such clinics will be shared with MEA from time to time).
 - (v) The couple should produce a duly notarized agreement between the applicant couple and the prospective Indian surrogate mother.
3. If any of the above conditions are not fulfilled, the visa application shall be rejected.
4. Before the grant of visa, the foreign couple need to be told that before leaving India for their return journey, 'exit' permission from FRRO/FRO would be required. Before granting 'exit', the FRRO/FRO will see whether the foreign couple is carrying a certificate from the ART clinic concerned regarding the fact that the child/children have been duly taken custody of by the foreigner and that the liabilities towards the Indian surrogate mother have been fully discharged as per the agreement. A copy of the birth certificate(s) of the surrogate child/children will be retained by the FRRO/FRO along with photocopies of the passport and visa of the foreign parents.

Compensation fund for victims of acid attacks

2289. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up a Central Victim Compensation Fund for the victims of acid attacks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what is the total number of acid attacks reported during the year 2014 across the country;
- (d) whether Government has sought any suggestions from the State Government to prevent acid attacks; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs has moved a proposal for creation of Central Victim Compensation Fund including compensation for the Victim of acid attacks.