

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) As per the Notification No. 25/2015-2020, dated 26.10.2015, issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, import of human embryo is prohibited except for research purposes. Also, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued Circular No. 462, dated 03.11.2015 wherein it has been instructed that:

- (i) No visa should be issued by the Indian Missions/Posts to foreign nationals intending to visit India for commissioning surrogacy.
- (ii) No permission should be granted by the FRROs/FROs to OCI Cardholders to commission surrogacy in India.
- (iii) No exit permission should be granted by the FRROs/FROs to the child/children, to be born through surrogacy, to foreign nationals, including OCI Cardholders.

The above is expected to put an end to surrogacy tourism.

Closing of HIV/AIDS research studies

1861. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to shut down several of the 36 HIV/AIDS research studies presently being implemented by NACO in collaboration with the US centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and USAID due to budgetary cuts;

(b) if so, the detailed specifications of the HIV/AIDS research studies that are being shelved without being concluded or completed, including the research objective, target population and partner organizations and NGOs; and

(c) whether Government is planning to allocate additional/supplementary funds for the continuation of these research studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No. Government is not planning to shut down HIV/AIDS research studies being implemented by NACO.

There are 32 research proposals under the National HIV/AIDS Research Plan, out of which 14 are to be funded by the Government through its domestic budget while 18 are through development partners. These are at various stages of processing.

(b) and (c) Not applicable, in view of the answer to part (a) above.