

Amendment to medical termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971

3001. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering amending the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971;

(b) if so, the timelines set in this regard; and

(c) whether Government is proposing to treat advanced pregnancies in minor rape victims and cases of foetal abnormalities as exceptions to the MTP act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Subsequent upon extensive consultative process with experts and following inter-ministerial consultations, the draft Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) (Amendment) Bill, 2018 has been drafted and is under process for finalization.

(c) The proposed amendments to MTP Act 1971 focuses on improving the scope of legal access for advanced pregnancies of rape victims and those with foetal abnormalities. Also as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, State/UT Governments have been asked to constitute Permanent Medical Boards in each State for dealing with such cases referred to by the Hon'ble District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court for MTP beyond 20 weeks so that immediate opinion may be given and urgent action may be taken.

Formulation of new list of essential diagnostics for HIV and hepatitis

3002. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether Indian Council of Medical Research has formulated a new list of essential diagnostics for key areas like HIV and hepatitis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will be on the lines of essential drugs list released by WHO;

(d) whether village-level diagnostic kits will also be available like tests for pregnane), blood-sugar monitoring, test for malaria, filarial etc.;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether it would ensure quality and the prices for these kits will come down and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Yes. The list has been formulated on the basis of the recommendations from national programs *i.e.* National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) respectively.

It includes rapid test for HIV from sub Centre/Health and Wellness Centres to District Hospital. Similarly, diagnostics test for Hepatitis is included at different levels of health care, from Primary Health Centre to Sub-District Hospital. Enzyme-linked Immune Sorbent Assay (ELISA) is introduced at District hospital level.

The list is available on ICMR website for public comments at <https://www.icmr.nic.in/what-s-new>.

(c) Yes. It is aligned with the WHO diagnostics list.

(d) and (e) Yes. Rapid diagnostics test based kits for pregnancy, malaria and filarial tests; durometer for blood monitoring and dipstick For urine albumin and sugar, are included at village level.

(f) The draft list, includes a chapter on prequalification of diagnostics and prices of these kits are determined after the list is finalised and approved.

Awareness campaigns to highlight causes of diabetes

3003. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) the number of people with diabetes in the country and whether it is increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, whether Government has initiated any steps to create awareness among masses about the causes of diabetes in the country;

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure that the medicines for diabetes both allopathic drugs and herbal drugs developed, are available at cheap rates in the market; and