

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Next Question. Question No. 239. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya. Absent. Yes, Mr. Minister. Just lay it.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKAR: Sir, the answer is laid on the Table of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All questions are on Health and Family Welfare and wealth, Finance. These are the two; health and wealth. Yes, Mr. Minister, just say, 'I lay it on the Table of the House.'

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Sir, that I said earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Nobody is asking supplementary.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Sir, I am ready to reply, if there is any question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**\*240.** [*The Questioner was absent.*]

#### **Regulation of ART clinics**

**\*240.** SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to regulate functioning of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics to check malpractices therein, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that hundreds of unwanted children born through surrogacy are left to die every year in absence of any legal safeguards, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the poor surrogate mothers are reportedly being exploited by these ART clinics in the country, if so, the number of such cases reported during each of last three years and current year, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to regulate ART clinics?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) No. There is no statutory mechanism for regulating ART clinics and Banks at present.

(b) No. However cases have been reported about abandonment of children born through surrogacy. Many cases have been mentioned in Media and in various fora, but only few of these get reported in the absence of legal safeguards.

(c) Yes. One of the most serious charges against surrogacy is that poor surrogate mothers involved get exploited by the ART clinics. In the absence of any statutory regulations, no such data is available with the Government. However, few cases have come to the notice of the Government through court cases.

(d) The Government is intending to regulate ART clinics and Banks by enacting a Law. The other steps taken by the Government so far include:—

- (i) Restrictions on surrogacy were provided by the Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 25/2015-2020 dated 26th October, 2015, prohibiting the import of human embryo.
- (ii) Another Notification No. 25022/74/2011-F-1 dated 3rd November, 2015 of the Ministry of Home Affairs prohibited foreign nationals, Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders, from commissioning surrogacy in India.
- (ii) The Department of Health Research *vide* notification No. 250211/119/2015-HR dated 4th November, 2015 validated the notification of the Home Ministry, banning commercial surrogacy in India. State Governments/UTs were accordingly advised for such action in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 240. Shri Ranjib Biswal, not there. Any supplementaries? Yes, Mr. Minister.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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