Act, 2019 received the assent of the President on 08th August, 2019. The Act provides for constitution of a National Medical Commission (NMC), four Autonomous Boards namely Under Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB), Post Graduate Medical Board (PGMEB), Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) and Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) and a Medical Advisory Council. The Chairman of the NMC, Presidents of four Boards and other members shall be medical professionals of outstanding ability, proven administrative capacity and integrity. Three members in the NMC one member each in MARB and EMRB shall be from diverse background. The Chairman, Presidents, Members and Secretary in the NMC will be selected through a transparent manner. This will bring quality in the governance of medical education. The Commission shall lay down policies for maintaining a high quality and high standards in medical education and make necessary regulations in this behalf and also frame guidelines for determination of fees and all other charges in respect of fifty per cent of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities under Section 10 of the NMC Act, 2019. The exit exam for medical graduates to be known as National Exit Test (NEXT) will assess the competency of medical graduates.

By simplification of procedures under the NMC Act, rapid growth in UG/PG medical seats is expected. Availability of more number of UG/PG seats in the country will ensure adequate and quality medical professionals in all parts of the country.

Safe abortions in India

2506. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government conducts any survey to study the number of safe and unsafe abortions taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is taking any step to expand access to abortion services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) National Family Health Survey (NFHS) captures data on safe and unsafe abortions through following indicators:–

(i) place of abortion (public health sector, private health sector, home, others).

(ii) person who performed abortion (Doctors, Nurse/ANM/LHV, Dai, Family member/friend, self, other).

(c) and (d) Yes. Provision of Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) services is an important component of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) program.

In order to expand access to abortion services, National Health Mission (NHM), provides support to the States and UTs for various activities:–

- Capacity Building of Medical Officers on Safe abortion techniques.
- Capacity Building of ANMs and ASHAs to generate awareness and provide confidential counseling for safe abortion, post-abortion care and post-abortion contraception.
- Provision of funds to States and UTs for procurement of equipments and drugs including pregnancy detection kits (for early detection of pregnancy).
- Provision of funds for Information Education and Communication (IEC) material *viz.* CAC posters, Flipcharts, Leaflets, Asha/ANM booklets etc.
- Comprehensive Abortion Care Training and Service Delivery Guideline (2010) has been revised in 2018 and issued to all the States and UTs in the country to facilitate quality care.
- Guidance Handbook for ASHA and community health workers on Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) has been developed and disseminated to the States/UTs.
- Certification of private and NGO sector facilities by District Level Committees to provide quality MTP services.