

checking the availability of medicine at all facilities at district and State level. DVDMS links various Regional/District Drug Warehouses (DWH), District Hospitals (DHs), their sub stores like Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). Moreover, it has the functionality for distribution of drugs to patients, thus enabling tracking of consumption till last mile.

1.5 lakh Sub Health Centres and Primary Health Centres across the country are being transformed into Health and Wellness Centres by December, 2022 under Ayushman Bharat for provision of comprehensive primary care that includes preventive healthcare and health promotion at the community level with continuum of care approach.

All these Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) have the provision of free distribution of medicines to the visiting patients.

On the basis of the proposals received from all States/UTs (except, UT of Delhi), so far, approvals for over 60,000 AB-HWCs have been accorded. Out of those, as reported by the States/UTs, 25,162 AB-HWCs are functional till 06th December, 2019.

#### **Single regulator for drugs, food and medical devices**

2511. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on establishing a single regulator to control the three different branches *i.e.*, drugs, food and medicinal devices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Cases under MTP Act**

2512. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases which have been decided by various High Courts and Supreme Court where Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act provisions have been challenged successfully; and

(b) the reasons why women are denied termination of pregnancy when they have severely abnormal fetuses or when they are rape survivors only because they have gone beyond twenty weeks, especially when the law allows them termination for the same reason before twenty weeks and when medical advances have proven that such termination is not risky to life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per records available with the Ministry, no provisions of MTP Act, 1971 has been challenged successfully in Hon'ble Supreme Court or Hon'ble High Courts.

(b) Abortions are regulated under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act), 1971.

As per the MTP Act, 1971, MTP is legally permissible upto 20 weeks of gestation in case of foetal anomalies and rape survivors under sub-section (2) of Section 3. As per the MTP Act, 1971, under Section 5, termination of pregnancy is legally permissible beyond 20 weeks of gestation only when it is immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant women.

#### **Financial assistance for cancer patients**

2513. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing financial assistance to poor patients *i.e.* patients below poverty line, under the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund all over the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, details of fund released during last five years, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides financial assistance for treatment of poor patients suffering from cancer under the "Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund" (HMCPF) component of Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN). Under the scheme, financial assistance upto ₹15 lakh is provided to patients belonging to families living