

**Increase in gestation period for abortion stipulated under MTP Act**

2478. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a shortage of medical termination of pregnancy kits or medical abortion drugs has been observed in some parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken by Government on the matter;
- (c) whether under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act), an abortion seeker under 20 weeks of gestation is required to apply to a court;
- (d) whether Government is aware if such cases are occurring; and
- (e) whether Government plans to increase the gestation period for abortion stipulated under this Act, 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) Procurement of Medical Termination of Pregnancy kits and Medical Abortion drugs are done by the States and UTs. The States/UTs propose their requirement under Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). Accordingly, funds are provided to States and UTs under National Health Mission (NHM), Government of India.

Medical Methods of Abortion (MMA) drugs has also been included in Essential Medicine List.

(c) and (d) Under Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act), 1971, Medical Termination of Pregnancy is legally permissible upto 20 weeks of gestation under specified conditions. It is not required to apply to court for seeking abortion below 20 weeks.

However, Government is aware that some cases below 20 weeks of gestation also have approached Hon'ble Courts seeking abortion.

(e) The draft Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is under consultation.