

LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY

Laparoscopic surgery

Sir,—This has reference to the letter 'Laparoscopic Surgery' by Mr. M. V. Moorthy (D.H.—June 21).

Laparoscopic female sterilisation is a simple and effective method in implementation of family planning. It is heartening to note that Gujarat and Maharashtra have logged over one lakh laparoscopic sterilisation over a period of two years.

Laparoscopic sterilisation has been in vogue in Kasturba Medical College Hospital, Manipal, Karnataka, for the past 12 years. During the year 1981-82 (April 1981 to March 1982) Karnataka has recorded a total number of 1,88,903 sterilisation operations against a target of 1,90,400 achieving 99.2 per cent of the target, and securing 5th place in family planning programme among 17 major States in the country.

In that year, among the 1,86,415 tubectomy operations performed 61,241 (32.4 p.c.) were by laparoscopic technique. During the months of April and the first half of May 1982 nearly 10,000 family planning operations (more than 1/3 by laparoscopic sterilisation technique) have already been conducted in Karnataka.

Karnataka has not only been a pioneer in mass laparoscopic sterilisation programme but also laparoscopists of Karnataka have improved the technique to avoid extra-abdominal manipulation. Laparoscopic operating surgeons in Karnataka are of high standing repute and have outstanding experience and skill in laparoscopic techniques.

The Government of Karnataka has endorsed (letter No. FWC/25/80-81) the guidelines contained in the Government of India circular of letter No. N230113/80-Ply dated 5-6-80.

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It is particularly laudable that most of the mass laparoscopic sterilisation camps in Karnataka have been organised by service and voluntary organizations ably and technically assisted by members of Indian Medical Association and helped and programmed by the Government of Karnataka. Rightly, laparoscopic sterilisation is a socially and technically accepted form of family planning which should be therefore be encouraged.

