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and CEDAW/C/POL/6, para. 4) and that they receive lower pensions, please describe the policies implemented and measures taken to improve the welfare of women in rural areas, particularly older women, and their impact.

**Violence against women**

13. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences reported that comprehensive legislation in relation to domestic



abortion on moral grounds, which may put at risk the lives of pregnant women seeking abortion. The sixth periodic report also shows an alarmingly high number of miscarriages, as shown in table A.12.2 (para. 190). The Human Rights Committee, in its concluding observations of 2004, expressed concern at the unavailability of abortion in practice even when the law permits it, for example, in case of pregnancy resulting from rape, and by the lack of information on the use of the conscientious objection clause by medical practitioners who refuse to carry out legal abortions. The Committee further regretted the lack of information on the extent of illegal abortions and their consequences for the women concerned. Please elaborate on the Government's position on this concern and provide any information on the amendments envisioned to improve women's access to reproductive health services, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation 24 on article 12 of the Convention.