

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:811
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
NEGLIGENCE OF HOSPITALS
Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new born babies are stolen from a number of Government hospitals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard and the details of the findings thereof;
- (d) the details of the arrangements for monitoring children in the ladies wards and their fool-proof security in hospitals; and
- (e) the action taken against the staff in case of negligence leading to babies thefts?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e): Health being a State subject, no such information is maintained centrally. However, in so far as the Central Government Hospitals located in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital and Dr. RML Hospital are concerned, only one case of missing of a baby girl was reported on 10.10.2009 from Obstetrics & Gynecology department in Safdarjung Hospital. The matter was reported to Police by the Hospital authority. Preliminary enquiry conducted by the hospital authority revealed that the baby was handed over to a lady (who was befriended by the mother of the baby) by the mother herself in lieu of gratification in the form of money and clothes. Various security arrangements have been put in place in all three Central Government Hospitals, which include round-the-clock monitoring by CCTV cameras; round-the-clock deployment of security guards in all maternity wards and on all the strategic points including main entry and exit points; putting up of notices in all wards and at important public places informing that infants should not be handed over to unknown persons, etc.