

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:71

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011

INFANTS DEATHS

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

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

- (a) whether newly born babies/ infants are reported to have died in some hospitals in the country including Delhi and West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the matter has been inquired into, and if so, the outcome of Inquiry Report thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Union Government has any plans to set up Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) in all major hospitals to handle critical neonatal cases ; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these units are likely to be set up in the country, State-wise ?

Answer

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

(a)to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 71 FOR 25TH NOVEMBER, 2011

(a) to (c) As per Sample Registration System (SRS 2009), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the country is 50 per 1000 live births and neo-natal mortality rate is 34 per thousand live bitths. This translates into 13 lakh infant deaths annually out of which 8.9 lakh deaths occur during the first month of life itself.

During the month of October, 2011, there were reports of newborn deaths in Dr. B. C Roy Post Graduate Institute of Paediatric Sciences, Kolkata and Burdwan Medical College, West Bengal. The matter was investigated by State health authorities and it was found that most of these children were referred to these institutions in a serious condition. Details of deaths are at Annexure I.

(d) & (e) In order to reduce infant deaths, special efforts are being carried out under NRHM to strengthen neo-natal care services in the country which includes establishment of special new born care units (SNCUs) in every district hospital to provide care to the sick newborn. 293 SNCUs have started functioning. State-wise details of SNCUs are placed at Annexure - II.