

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1341

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012

DEATHS OF CHILDREN

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

- (a) whether 42 children aged between years 1 to 12 are reported to have died in a Civil Hospital in Assam in just 2 months i.e. in December 2011 and January 2012;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any investigations or sought report from the State Government of Assam on such high number of deaths;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps Government proposes to take to ascertain the exact cause of such deaths?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b) A total of 41 children below the age of 12 years are reported to have died in Civil Hospital in Karimganj district in Assam. Out of this, 22 deaths took place in December 2011 and 19 in Jan 2012. Majority (31) of these children were less than 1 year, 6 between the ages of 1 to 5 years and 4 above 5 years of age. Of these, 26 were males and 15 females. The major causes of deaths were Respiratory Tract Infections, septicaemia, Acute Gastro-enteritis, Encephalitis, and Meningitis.

(c) to (e) Yes, the state government has conducted an investigation in the month of Mar 2012 and the salient findings are as below:

- i. There were 229 and 250 children admitted in Dec 2011 and Jan 2012 with 22 and 19 deaths respectively.
- ii. Percentage Mortality stands at 9.6% and 7.6% for this period.
- iii. In the month of Feb 2012, there were 204 admissions and 8 deaths (Mortality, 3.9%).

As most of deaths took place in children under 1 year of age, the following actions have been taken by the state as per recommendation of the report:

- i. Two days workshop for the Doctors and Nurses of Civil Hospitals of Karimganj and Hailakandi districts and all 24 x 7 health institutions in these districts has been conducted.
- ii. Newborn Stabilization Unit has been made operational in May 2012.
- iii. Admissions and deaths are being monitored on a daily basis.
- iv. 996 ASHAs have been trained in Module 6 and 7 and are conducting newborn care through home visits.
- v. Training of Medical Officers, Staff Nurses is being scaled up for Facility Based management of Newborn Care, Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK) and Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA).