

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3382
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
INFANTS DEATHS
Punia Shri P.L. ;Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether death of a number of newly born babies/infants has been reported in hospitals in various States including West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (c) whether the Government has sought any report from respective State/UT Governments to ascertain the reasons for the huge number of infant deaths in above mentioned States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against erring officials and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): There were media reports of death of infant and newborn in West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam during the financial year 2011-12. The details are as below.

State	Hospital	Reported deaths in media	Period	Reasons
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Behrampore	Sadar Hospital, Murshidabad	12	July, 2011	The reason was referral of seriously sick children from neighbouring districts and hospital. The college Medical reasons were low birth weight, prematurity, asphyxia, septicaemia
Dr. B.C Roy	West Bengal institute, Kolkatta	12	October, 2011	
Burdwan Medical college		12	October, 2011	
Malda Medical college and Hospital		15	January, 2012	

Assam Civil Hospital, Kareemgunj - January, 2012 and Pneumonia in 41 December, 2011 most of these deaths

Jammu & Kashmir Hospital, Srinagar
G.B Pant 62 May, 2012

(c) & (d): the respective State Governments carried out investigation of these reports and concluded that deaths are occurring due to referral of critically sick newborn and children from the neighbouring districts and hospitals. The enquiry did not reveal any negligence on part of hospital. Various steps taken by the State Governments are as follows :

- 1) Strengthening of neonatal services through establishment of special newborn care units, newborn stabilization units and newborn care corners in these hospitals on a priority basis.
- 2) Conducting capacity building workshops for training of doctors and nurses in facility based management of newborn.