

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:904
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
INADEQUATE FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS
Babbar Shri Raj

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

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has sent a notice to the Safdarjung Hospital regarding deaths of nearly 8200 children during the last five years due to malfunctioning/non-functioning of ventilators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether certain health facilities at the Safdarjung and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia hospitals are inadequate; (
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b). Safdarjung Hospital has received a letter from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) regarding deaths of nearly 8200 children during the last five years. The reported death occurred over a cumulative period of five years (2008-12). No death is attributed due to malfunctioning/non-functioning of the ventilators. These deaths occurred in children who were brought in very critical condition at the time of admission in the hospital.

Out of the total admission of 57637 in pediatrics ward, the total numbers of deaths are 5777 including those brought in very critical condition from outside Government and private hospitals at the time of admission in hospital. Out of 123759 new born in Safdarjung Hospital, there were only 3298 deaths which are only 2.6% of total deliveries of Safdarjung Hospital. At present all the ventilators are functional except one which has been sent to workshop for repair.

(c) to (e). Adequate healthcare facilities are available in these two hospitals. There is a well designated equipment maintenance committee headed by a Consultant. Equipment maintenance is a continuous process and all the life saving equipments including ventilators are under Annual Maintenance (AMC) with authorized agents of the equipment.