

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5138
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013
PERFORMANCE OF AUTOPSIES
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether some particular communities are required to perform autopsies in morgues instead of trained doctors in Central Government and its associated hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a code of procedure to avoid conduct of autopsy in inhuman manner; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): Among the three Central Government hospitals in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC & Hospital, no autopsies are conducted in Dr. RML Hospital. Autopsies are conducted in Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC by trained medical professionals.

(c) & (d): Public Health is a State subject, it is responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that autopsy is done in an appropriate manner. However, Directorate General of Health Services under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General Health Services on a reference from National Commission of Scheduled Casts requesting, inter alia, to take steps for reforming the procedure for conducting post mortem. The committee worked out 'Minimum requirement in the Mortuary to be available at all District Hospitals of India' and it has been circulated vide letter dated 20.12.12 to all the States with the request to facilitate the implementation of the Minimum requirement as worked out by the Committee.