

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1567

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

SHORTAGE OF NITROGEN GAS IN LADY HARDING MEDICAL COLLEGE

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Upadhyay Seema;Vardhan Shri Harsh

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

- (a) whether surgery of several serious patients was deferred in the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi recently owing to shortage of nitrogen gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether complaints of certain irregularities in the maternity ward have also been received; and
- (d) if so, the details of the complaints concerning the maternity ward during the last one year and the details of the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): There was no shortage of Compressed Nitrogen Gas resulting into deferment of surgery of patients in Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associated Hospitals. However, due to an abrupt failure of supply of Nitrous Oxide Gas required for General Anesthesia by the Supplier, a few routine surgeries had to be deferred only for two days. Emergency operation theatres ran smoothly on reserved stock of Nitrous Oxide available and the serious patients were attended to. In addition, operations were done in routine for those cases not requiring General Anesthesia.

The Hospital administration immediately took up the matter with the supplier and the supply of Nitrous Oxide was resumed on priority.

(c)&(d): As per the available records in the Hospital, no complaint regarding certain irregularities in the maternity ward has been received. However, there were four complaints regarding misconduct and negligence on the part of doctors or the hospital staff. Inquiry in three cases has been completed and in one case, no negligence was established; in second case instructions were issued to doctors to remain more vigilant and in third case memo was issued to the doctors concerned. In the fourth case, inquiry has been initiated.