

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4309
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
THEFT OF INFANTS FROM HOSPITALS
Mukherjee Shri Abhijit

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

- (a) whether the incidents of stealing of newly born children in various hospitals including Government hospitals have been increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents reported/noticed during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the persons found involved/guilty in such incidents; and
- (d) the details of stringent measures being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents and for strengthening security in the hospitals?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c): Health is a State subject and as such, no such information is maintained in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, in so far as AIIMS and the three Central Government Hospital in Delhi, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (R.M.L.) Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & its associated hospitals are concerned, no such incident of theft of infants have been reported.

(d): As far as three Central Government Hospitals as stated above are concerned, proper documentation of births is done in these hospitals and identification bands/labels are put on the babies. Babies are personally handed over to the mothers by the Staff Nurse. No unauthorized person is allowed entry inside the labour room.

Adequate security measures are in place in these hospitals and the areas of new born infants come under CCTV coverage. The strategic points are also being watched by the Security Guards round the clock and the infants are allowed to go out of the Department only after verification of the Discharge slip. Notices are also put in all the wards and at the important public places that infants should not be handed over to unknown persons.