

Title: Need for an effective policy to check infant mortality rate.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to raise an issue of national importance. In our country, even after 58 years of Independence, the infant mortality rate is very high. Out of the babies who die, the component of newborn babies is very high. After birth, upto one month, these now-born babies are very much vulnerable to infections due to both medical as well as surgical problems and they need immediate emergency and specialised care. But there are a very few hospitals in our country, which are equipped with the required facilities to attend to these newborn babies. So, I urge upon the Government that the time has come to set up at least the minimum scientific infrastructure down to the district hospital level for giving care to the newborn babies. Then, for specialised training, teaching and research in our vast country, neo-natal institutes should be set up immediately in all the regions without further loss of time.