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Title: Need to control Neonatal deaths by adopting proven and cost effective measures and coordinating with the global health partners such as WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, UNAIDS.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Sir, it is a matter of surprise for me to know that India accounts for 6,96,000 neonatal deaths per year. 'Neonatal death' is defined as a death during the first 28 days of life. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), two-thirds of these deaths can be prevented by adopting proven and cost effective measures. There is a need for providing good quality care around the time of birth of a child. Particularly in the first days after birth which would go a long way in saving or preventing complications and infections in newborns.

I would like to strongly urge the Ministry of Health to make renewed efforts by adopting the basic efforts and by coordinating with the global health partners such as WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, UNAIDS.