

Registration General of India is 33 per 1000 live births which means 3.3% of newly born babies die in the first month of their birth. However, 70% of all infant deaths occur within first month of their birth. Keeping this in view, the strengthening of neonatal services has been kept as one of the key priority area under Reproductive and Child Health programme of National Rural Health Mission.

(c) and (d) The major causes of neonatal deaths are infections (29%) such as Pneumonia, Septicemia and Umbilical Cord infection; Prematurity (24%) i.e. birth of newborn before 37 weeks of gestation and asphyxia (19%) i.e. inability to breathe immediately after birth and leads to lack of oxygen. Factors contributing to above causes are as under:

- Home delivery by unskilled persons
- Lack of essential new born care for asphyxia and hypothermia
- Poor child care practices
- Lack of early detection of sick newborn
- Inadequate/delayed referral mechanisms
- Inadequate infrastructure at health care facilities for specialised care of sick newborn.

Introduction of Short Term Medical Course

2123. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to introduce a short term modern medicine course called BRMS/BRHC/BRM; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Government is considering the introduction of a 3 ½ year rural health care course, -tentatively called Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC). The course is proposed to be taught in the District Hospitals and is especially designed for those who have completed their schooling and passed their qualifying examination, *i.e.* 10+2 examination, from notified rural areas of the district. The purpose of the proposed course is to generate a cadre of health care providers who, by the virtue of the way they are chosen, trained, deployed and supported would be motivated to live in and provide comprehensive primary health care in the rural areas at the Sub-Centre level.

Re-Development of DR. RML Hospital New Delhi

2124. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: