

Unclaimed dead-body bank

3676. SHRI KALPATARU DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an unclaimed dead-body bank has been set up in the AIIMS, New Delhi that would serve as a training centre for the doctors of the hospitals;
- (b) whether such banks have also been set up in other States for providing surgical lessons to the new doctor;
- (c) whether it is a Centrally funded project;
- (d) whether the hospital authorities would cremate such bodies after their purpose has been served; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) No unclaimed dead body bank has been set up in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. However, the unclaimed dead bodies are used for training of Doctors after obtaining due permission from the competent authority (Delhi Police).

(b) and (c) Health is a State subject. No such data is being maintained in the Ministry.

(d) and (e) After the purpose of training is served, these bodies are cremated/buried by the hospital as per the normal religious customs and approved by the police authorities. The expenses are born by hospital. The documents received from cremation/burial ground are handed over to Police authority for record.

Patient welfare committees

†3677. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the presence of distinguished citizens in the patient welfare committees has a positive impact on the functioning of the committees;
- (b) if so, whether Government would consider enhancing the social responsibility of patient welfare committees and empower them further keeping in view their importance; and
- (c) whether Government would give clear directions regarding regular constitution of these committees and providing financial rights to them?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) The object of including eminent citizens in the Patient Welfare Committee Rogi Kalyan Samities (RKS) was to have a positive impact in the functioning of the Committee. However, the Government is not aware of any evaluation/study that has looked into whether the presence of distinguished citizens in the Patient Welfare Committees has had a positive impact on the functioning of the committees.

(c) Under the National Health Mission (NHM), guidelines have been issued to States/UTs for constitution of Rogi Kalyan Samitis/Hospital Management Committee at all public health facilities at the level of Primary Health Centre and above. Out of 31384 public health facilities of Primary Health Centre level and above as per Rural Health Statistics, 2013, there are 31279 RKS constituted across the country as on 31st March, 2014. One of the critical components of NHM is the provision of corpus grants to RKS on an annual basis which is to be utilized by the RKS for improvement of facilities and services for patients. The RKS also has authority to raise resources including through user charges.

Skewed Sex Ratio

3678. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child sex ratio in India according to the latest census of India is the lowest since Independence;

(b) whether it is a fact that India is among the only two countries in the world where the infant mortality rate of females is higher than that of males; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the adverse consequences of an artificially skewed sex ratio on India's welfare and development?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Census, 2011 the child sex ratio (0-6 years) has shown a decline from 927 females per thousand males in 2001 to 919 females per thousand males in 2011, which is the lowest since independence.

(b) Gender-wise International comparison of Infant Mortality is not available, However, as per the "State's of the World Children" Report 2014 published by UNICEF, 40 countries have higher female under five mortality rate than India, The international comparison of female under five mortality rate is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Yes. Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy entailing schemes and programmes and awareness generation/advocacy measures to build a positive environment for the girl child through gender sensitive policies, provisions and legislation. The measures include the following :