

(b) if so, the number of such babies stolen in various Government hospitals, hospital-wise; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to prevent baby swapping in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Government to take all necessary steps to prevent such eventualities.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, no incidence of baby stealing during the last one year have been reported. The following steps have been adopted in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi to prevent baby swapping:—

1. The baby and its external genital area is shown to the mother immediately following delivery before cutting the cord.
2. Immediately after delivery, hand badges and chest badges indicating the name of the mother, father, MRD No. date and time of the delivery, sex, ward number is fixed on the baby.
3. Sex of the baby is confirmed by the Obstetrician and Paediatrician and footprint of the baby is taken. Simultaneous entry is made in the labour register and transfer register.
4. On discharge from hospital, baby's discharge slip is checked by the security guard before allowing the baby to be taken out of the ward.

B. Barooah Cancer Institute

546. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a plan to save and improve the B. Barooah Cancer Institute at Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Department of Development of North Eastern

Region (DONER) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), all the expenditure in respect of the Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati are being met by the North Eastern Council (NEC) through the budget of DONER, DAE and the Government of Assam (GOA) under the Revitalization Programme (RP). As per provisions of the RP Phase-II which is in force till 31.3.04, the recurring expenditure of the Institute is shared by all the 3 funding agencies @33.3% and the non-recurring expenditure @45% each by DAE and DONER and 10% by Government of Assam.

Apart from the above, the Institute is also being extended financial assistance by this Ministry under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) from time to time.

Health Schemes for Senior Citizens

547. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the health schemes launched by Government for providing medical assistance to the senior citizens/pensioners during the last two years;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce any new health schemes to provide better medical facilities to the senior citizens/pensioners in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Universal Health Insurance Scheme announced in the Union Budget 2003-04 is a scheme to benefit poor by insuring their health care requirements at a premium of Rupee one per day. It provides for reimbursement of medical expenses up to Rupees thirty thousand. This Scheme can be used by old people up to 65 years of age.

The Government has also announced National Health Policy 2002 with an objective to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population including the Geriatric population of the country. Further, the Central Government pensioners can opt for the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) wherein they can get free