

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4061

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004

THEFT OF CHILDREN IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of swapping and theft of children in Government hospitals in various parts of the country particularly in Delhi has become a problem;
- (b) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the incidents;
- (c) the number of cases pertaining to child swapping and theft brought to light in various hospitals in Delhi during the last one year; and
- (d) the action taken against the employees involved in swapping and theft cases?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d): It is for the respective State Government to take all necessary steps to prevent such incidence in the state owned hospitals.

In Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, no incidents of baby swapping and theft have been reported. However, the following steps are adopted in the above mentioned hospitals to prevent the baby swapping/theft:-

- The baby and its external genital area is shown to the mother immediately following delivery before cutting the cord.
- Hand badges and chest badges indicating the name of the mother, father, MRD Number, date and time of the delivery, sex, ward number is fixed on the baby.
- Sex of the baby is confirmed by the Obstetrician and Paediatrician and foot print of the baby is taken. Simultaneously, entry is made in the labour register and transfer register.
- 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.