

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1921  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006  
CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE IN INFANTS  
Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

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

- (a) whether a large number of new born babies are succumbing to congenital heart disease in India as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated December 26, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the infants from congenital heart disease?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to AIIMS the incidence of congenital heart disease is about 0.8/1000 live births. A large number of babies are born with congenital heart disease in the country. Many of them require specialized care by pediatric cardiologists and by cardiac surgeons who are specially trained in pediatric heart surgery. The children born with congenital heart disease often develop complications which result in death. The number of centers catering to the treatment for babies born with critical congenital heart disease is limited and therefore significant proportion of these babies succumb to congenital heart disease.

The Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) has initiated a study at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi for systematically studying the incidence of CHD in newborns and developing a simple strategy that will allow early detection of CHD.