

Rajasthan: Infant Deaths in State - run Hospitals

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in a study observed that “the available information ... and reports from the state showed higher mortality rate of 20.2% in JK Lon hospital, Kota during 2019”. Kota hospital reported 111 deaths in 37 days. The NCPCR team found many lapses in JK Lon hospital such as 70% of radiant warmers are non-functional; over 60% of all devices used in the neonatal department are not working, and infants are exposed to extremes of whether as there are no window glasses, pigs are roaming freely inside the hospital campus and general upkeep is in worst condition and so on. Kota elected Om Birla, the speaker of Lok Sabha as its MP.

The people have not forgotten the horrific events of infant deaths in Uttar Pradesh’s Muazffarpur paliamentaary constituency presented by Yogi Adityanath. The situation is the same across the state. The health services are completely neglected. For example, two hospitals in Gujarat reported 219 deaths in December. In the last three months 253 infants have died in the Ahmedabad hospital.

Instead of taking measures to correct the situation, the issue was made into a political controversy between the Congress government and opposition BJP in Rajsthan and between Congress on one side and Yogi and Mayawati on the other in Uttar Pradesh. Charges and counter-charges and accusations and counter-accusations galore, while the poor infants continue to die. Finally the government constituted a committee to analyse the situation. No one knows what would be the fate of yet another committee’s report.

When compared with the response of Chinese government to the Carona virus infection, one has to wonder when India reaches to such a stage of swift, silent and responsible reaction to contain the disease which has no known medicine to treat and contain it from spreading.
