Sub: Clarification on Infant Deaths and Maternal Deaths.

It has been noticed while inspecting the registration units of births and deaths in different part of the country that in several places, the terms "Infant Deaths" and "Maternal Deaths" are being misunderstood by some of the Registrars, while forwarding the 'Summary Monthly Report of Deaths' in Form No. 12 along with the statistical part of Death Reporting Form. It has been observed that deaths up to the age of five years are treated as infant deaths in many cases. While in case of maternal deaths most of the female deaths are shown under this column, irrespective of the age of the deceased.

In this connection it is requested that clear cut instructions may be issued to all the District Registrars/Registrars of your state that 'Deaths of children less than one year old' only be counted as infant deaths. In case of Maternal Death the following may be noted.

The death of a mother during pregnancy or labour or within 42 days (six weeks) after delivery/termination of pregnancy which are known to be definitely caused by conditions arising out of pregnancy and child birth shall only be included as maternal death.

It is therefore, requested that specific instructions may be issued to the Registrars/District Registrars to check the entries while forwarding Form No. 12 along with statistical part of the Reporting Forms therefore accurate data on these indicators may be obtained. It may be noted that once this compilation have been done it is very difficult to check the quality of data and hence all efforts are to be made to ensure the quality at the basic level at child's compilation are done.

The action taken in this regard may be informed to this office.

(K. Narayanan Unni)
Deputy Registrar General

To:
All Chief Registrars of Births & Deaths

Copy for information.

To all DCOs and JRGs.