Subject: Extending the scheme of Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) to all Medical Institutions-regarding.

The Scheme of Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) falling under the legal ambit of Registration of Births & Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969 is aimed at providing the cause-specific mortality profile across different age groups at the State and National levels. As of now, the scheme is restricted to major hospitals and hospitals attached to medical colleges located mostly in urban areas. Moreover, the coverage of the scheme is also not uniform across the States/UTs. Consequently, the data on cause specific mortality generated under the scheme suffers on account of reliability, representativeness and comparability over the period of time. The present coverage to medically certified deaths to the total registered deaths is 20.2 percent and only 14.3 percent against the total estimated deaths.

2. In order to effect improvements in the scheme on above counts, it has been decided to extend the coverage of the scheme to all medical institutions in the country, i.e. Government, Private and non-profit making medical institutions. This would go a long way in bridging the data gap on cause-specific mortality profile in the country which is of immense importance to the public health planners, administrators, epidemiologists, medical professionals and researchers.

3. The Chief Registrars of Births & Deaths are requested to issue necessary direction under Section 4(4) of the RBD Act, 1969 for inclusion of all medical institutions in their respective States/UTs and ensure complete coverage. In order to operationalize the directive, the following steps are required to be taken on priority:

(i) Coordination with the Medical Institutions to be notified for inclusion under the MCCD scheme for sending the data in Form 4 (Hospital Deaths) to
the concerned Registrar on a timely basis for its onward transmission to the Chief Registrar of Births & Deaths.

(ii) Prepare an up-to-date list of Government, Private and non-profit making medical institutions covered under the Scheme and obtain a monthly return on deaths from each of them.

(iii) Undertake periodic Inspections to monitor the quality of the MCCD data. In case of Institutional Death Reporting Form (Form No. 2) should be cross-checked with Form No. 4.

4. These directions are issued under Section 3(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969 and the compliance in the form of an Action Taken Report be furnished to this office.

Yours faithfully,

(R.K. Gautam)
Deputy Registrar General

To,

Chief Registrars of births & Deaths (as per list attached)