

## **Rats nibbled dead body in Kasturba Hospital, family dazed**

*By Aditi Gyanesh Jan 3, 2016, Times Of India, Bhopal, India*

BHOPAL: She battled for life and endured pain for seven days before her end came at Kasturba Hospital, BHEL on Saturday. Relatives kept the body of elderly woman, Jadia Bai, 65, in a mortuary at 9:45pm and left the hospital premises to come and collect the body the next day. On Sunday morning, when doors of the morgue were opened to hand over the body, relatives jumped out of their skin to see the frightful sight--rats, a small colony of them, running about the place.

But they were least prepared for what came a little while later. As the paramedic staff opened to take out the body, family members were horrified to look at the body. Rodents nibbled and ate up dead skin and made holes all over the body, head, nose, face, neck and other parts. Seeing the condition of body, kin were beside themselves with rage and rushed to senior doctors to complain about it.



Guptesh Kundelkar, son of Jadia Bai, said, "My mother suffered from asthma and was critical for past few days. We lost her on Saturday evening. When we returned to take the body on Sunday, we found rats in the morgue and holes all over the body, especially on face. It speaks a lot about the hospital administration."

"If we had come after some more time, rodents would have caused greater damage to the body. When someone close passes away, family goes in shock and incidents like this only exacerbate it," he said.

Jadia Bai's grandson Joginder Kundelkar is an employee with BHEL.

Agitated over state of affairs, family members and others present said the room suffered from many flaws where bodies are kept. Metal net near exhaust fan is broken and drains are open. A theft in same mortuary was also reported two years ago.

"A new mortuary is constructed, but is still not operational. The existing one can take only six bodies," said Deepak Gupta, secretary, Intech Union, BHEL.

Fuming over shocking indifference, her relatives created a ruckus in hospital, demanding a

probe. Sensing the mood, senior doctors were quick to order an inquiry. "We have formed a three-member committee to look into reason and fix the responsibility. New mortuary might take some more time due to technical issues with the building. We have directed to take all measures to prevent recurrence of such incident," said Dr A K Dave, chief medical and health officer, Kasturba Hospital.