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Mid Week

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Govt. ponders euthanasia some rural health institu



by Don Asoka Wijesinghe

The Health Ministry is considering the closure of rural hospitals, central dispensaries and health centres. A survey revealed that some rural hospitals have no patients and attend to four to five deliveries a month.

Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has appointed a committee to prepare a complete census of underused rural hospitals because it has been found that the government has to spend around Rs.150,000 mn a month on salaries, overtime and maintenance work.

The Minister told *The Island* that the government had been incurring heavy losses because of the obsolete rural hospitals. Most patients preferred hospitals with better facilities to rural hospitals, central dispensaries and peripheral clinics.

**MR calls for explanation
for massage parlours**