

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1080  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025**

**SHORTAGE OF PAEDIATRIC SURGEONS IN THE COUNTRY**

**1080 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:**

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures implemented or being planned to tackle the shortage of paediatric surgeons in the country; and
- (b) the steps the National Medical Commission has taken regarding the requests from the Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons to accredit a six-year M.Ch Paediatric Surgery programme, reintroduce super specialty rotations in postgraduate training, and establish a dedicated Paediatric Surgery unit to manage paediatric surgical beds as a minimum standard for medical college recognition?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): The government has increased number of Medical Colleges, Under Graduate(UG) and Post Graduate(PG) seats. There is an increase in Medical Colleges from 387 to 780; UG seats from 51,348 to 1,15,900 and PG seats from 31,185 to 74,306 from 2014 to as on date.

To address shortage of medical professionals including paediatric surgeons in the country, the Government is implementing following schemes:

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/ referral hospital under which 131 new medical colleges are functional out of 157 approved medical colleges.
- ii. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- iii. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme has a component related to “Upgradation of Government Medical Colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks/Trauma care centres, etc.” Out of 75 projects, 71 projects are complete under this component. The other component is for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved.

National Medical Commission (NMC) has relaxed the infrastructure norms for M.Ch. (Paediatric Surgery) in “Minimum Standard of Requirements for Postgraduate Courses-2023 (PGMSR-2023). The course can now be started with two (2) seats with a minimum number of twenty (20) beds and only two faculty without the need for senior resident as against the previous requirement of three faculty and a senior resident. For any subsequent increase of seats to three and five, 30 and 40 beds respectively are required.

(b): No such proposal is under consideration with the NMC.

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