

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1891
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH AUGUST, 2026**

REGULATION OF WORKING HOURS OF DOCTORS

1891. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the absence of a uniform and enforceable national framework regulating maximum daily and weekly working hours of doctors in Government and private hospitals and its impact on patient safety and quality care;
- (b) whether international best practices adopted in the USA, UK, Japan and Hong Kong and the working-hour circulars issued by the State Government of Kerala, have been examined in this context; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to formulate national guidelines, in consultation with State Governments and medical bodies, to regulate doctors' working hours and strengthen ethical medical practices, including control of unethical medical advertising?

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

(a) to (c): The National Medical Commission (NMC), established under the NMC Act, 2019, is the apex regulatory body for medical education, the medical profession, and medical institutions. The NMC frames policies and regulations and issues clarifications/directives thereon from time to time for compliance.

As per the Post-Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023 (PGMER-23) issued by the NMC, all postgraduate students shall work as full-time resident doctors with reasonable working hours and adequate rest time each day. Postgraduate students are entitled to 20 days of casual leave, 5 days of academic paid leave per year, and one day off per week. Further, female postgraduate students are entitled to maternity leave and male postgraduate students are entitled to paternity leave in accordance with the applicable Government rules and regulations.

As regards ethical medical practices, including the control of unethical advertising, the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 regulate the professional conduct and medical ethics of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs).
