

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 288
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026**

**NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON SURGICAL LOAD AND INFECTION CONTROL IN
OPERATION THEATRES**

288. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is no uniform national policy prescribing the maximum permissible number of surgical procedures per day in an Operation Theater (OT), and whether this has raised concerns regarding infection control;
- (b) whether Government has examined reports of post-operative infections and patient deaths allegedly associated with excessive surgical workload, and whether existing practices conform to the safe surgery guidelines of the WHO;
- (c) whether Government proposes to prescribe mandatory minimum intervals between consecutive surgeries; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to mandate declaration of OT capacity based on infrastructure and type of surgeries, along with periodic compliance audits in hospitals?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d): 'Public Health' & 'Hospitals' are State subjects. It is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments to ensure provision of quality healthcare services, including patient safety and infection prevention and control in hospitals under their jurisdiction.

To mitigate risks related to Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued the **National Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Facilities**. The Government has also issued various guidelines and standards for ensuring quality of healthcare services, infection prevention and control, biomedical waste

management, periodic quality audits and patient safety including the **National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)**, **Kayakalp Guidelines**, and **Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)**.

The **Operational Guidelines for Operation Theatre Complex** issued by this Ministry, under the IPHS 2022 framework, provide comprehensive recommendations for planning, design, operation, infection prevention and quality assurance of OT complexes in public health facilities. The detailed guidelines can be accessed through the following link:

<https://nhsrcindia.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines-on-OT.pdf>

ICMR released guidelines on Infection control in hospitals in 2016 to facilitate hospitals to develop infection control program which are available at:

https://www.icmr.gov.in/icmrobject/custom_data/pdf/resource-guidelines/Hospital_Infection_control_guidelines.pdf

Adverse events, including healthcare-associated infections, are monitored and managed by the concerned healthcare institutions and the respective State/UT Governments in accordance with applicable rules, guidelines and institutional mechanisms.
