

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1108  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**DELAY IN SURGERIES DUE TO CORONA**

**1108. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:  
SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that around 5,80,000 planned surgeries in various hospitals across the country were cancelled or delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic as per the study published in the British Journal of Surgery;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have made any alternative arrangements for those patients who urgently require surgery;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (e): There have been reports in the media regarding planned surgeries being cancelled/affected due to Covid-19 pandemic. However, Public Health & Hospitals being State subjects, such information is not maintained centrally.

As far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz. Safdarjung, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) and Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) & Associated Hospitals, are concerned, elective operation theatres were closed w.e.f. 18.03.2020 and elective surgeries resumed w.e.f. 01.09.2020 in Safdarjung Hospital. However, during the period of March, 2020 to 10.09.2020, a total number of 3356 numbers of emergency surgeries were done in Safdarjung Hospital.

In Dr. RML Hospital, planned surgeries were curtailed during COVID-19 for initial period of two months. As the norms of lockdown were relaxed, planned surgeries were resumed in a sequential manner. However, during the entire COVID period, emergency surgeries were never stopped and round the clock emergency surgeries were performed as and when required.

No planned surgeries were cancelled or delayed in LHMC & Associated Hospitals. All emergency surgeries are being operated with proper screening of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, separate operations theatres were earmarked for surgery of suspected and confirmed cases.

As far as All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi is concerned, some of the elective surgeries were postponed due to COVID-19. However, all emergency surgeries were undertaken regularly without any delay. Approximately 5958 surgeries of non COVID patients have been performed during the period from 25.03.2020 to 31.08.2020.