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Title: Need to formulate a comprehensive plan to strengthen paediatric surgery in the country.

SHRI SULTAN AHMED (ULUBERIA): India is home to the highest number of both child birth rate and death rate in the world. Death rate of children undergoing treatment in India is worse than many countries of Africa including Ethiopia. Around 2 per cent of children are born in India with various types of congenital malformations that would require surgical intervention if treated early and properly. Good care of these children at the hospital gives these unfortunate babies a potential to survive. Unfortunately there are limited facilities of paediatric surgical care in the country. In India, insurance companies do not cover the babies with congenital malformations. Paying capacity of the parents is limited and corporate hospitals do not want to invest much in Paediatric Surgical care as it needs huge investment. Even at the most government institutions funds are diverted largely for adult care departments for the reasons well known to everybody. Even in AIIMS, New Delhi, there has been redistribution of routine operation theatre time allotted to the Professors in the Department of Paediatric Surgery.

I urge upon the Government to prepare a comprehensive plan to strengthen Paediatric Surgery across the country.