

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1890  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011  
HEART SURGERY AMONG CHILDREN  
Choudhry Smt. Shruti

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

- (a) whether as per certain study of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) there is gender inequality in heart surgery among children in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (c): Yes. In a study conducted by AIIMS, parents or guardians of 405 children aged up to 12 years who had been advised to undergo elective paediatric cardiac surgery at AIIMS were interviewed and status was reviewed after a year. It was found that 44% (59/134) of girls had undergone surgery compared to 70 % (189/271) of boys.

As per the study, deep seated social factors, lower socioeconomic status and educational level of the head of the household along with concerns regarding post operative scar effecting future matrimonial prospects of girls and lack of empowerment of woman even in day to day running of the family emerged as various factors responsible for the disparity. During the consultation process the parents/ guardian are properly sensitised in an effort towards avoiding such situation.