

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 583
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

**WHO'S INTERSECTORAL GLOBAL ACTION PLAN ON EPILEPSY AND OTHER
NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS**

583. SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the WHO's Intersectoral Global Action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders;
- (b) if so, the details of the actions planned by Government to implement action plan at Central and State levels with timelines; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

- (a) to (c): In November 2020, the Seventy-third World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted resolution WHA73.10 requesting the Director-General, to develop an Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders in consultation with Member States to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated response across multiple sectors.

Towards the objectives of the International Global Action Plan for Epilepsy and other Neurological disorders (2022-2031), the Government of India and stakeholders across the country have been actively engaged in working towards raising policies and providing and implementing strategies for prevention, diagnosis and care of epilepsy and the other neurological disorders across the country.

The Government of India has actively pursued to incorporate epilepsy and other neurological disorders into existing healthcare programs. The National and District Mental Health Programmes have succeeded in prioritizing care for neurological disorders such as epilepsy and dementia. The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) focuses on strengthening infrastructure, and care pathways for stroke, a major cause of disability, across the country. Other programmes such as the National Programme on Healthcare for the Elderly (NPHCE), National Programme for Palliative Care (NPPC) and National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) are widening their scope of activities to improve intersectoral care for people with dementia.

Further, for providing affordable and accessible mental healthcare facilities to the population, including the poor and underprivileged, the Government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 716 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. Facilities made available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre(CHC) and Primary Health Centre(PHC) levels, include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc.

In addition to the above, the Government is also taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at primary healthcare level. Mental health services have been added in the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care under Ayushman Bharat – HWC Scheme. Operational guidelines on Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use Disorders (MNS) at Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) have been released under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat.
