

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 245
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH AUGUST, 2025**

STRENGTHENING GERIATRIC HEALTHCARE SERVICES

245 SMT. SUDHA MURTY:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering the expansion of dedicated geriatric care units in district and sub-district hospitals to cater to the specific health needs of elderly citizens; and
- (b) whether Government is planning to implement age-sensitive mental health support, such as access to counselling, or early screening for conditions like depression and memory loss, for elderly patients

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

- (a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 245 * FOR 12TH AUGUST, 2025**

(a) The Government launched National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) in 2010, with an objective of providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality long-term, comprehensive and dedicated care services to the elderly population. At present, dedicated geriatric care units are operational in 722 districts of the country catering to the specific health needs of elderly citizens. Various healthcare services are provided to elderly citizens at Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, District Hospitals etc. Under the NPHCE, 17 Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs) have been supported.

Two National Centres for Ageing (NCAs) have been established at All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi and Madras Medical College, Chennai. A third NCA has also been approved at Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

(b) Under the NPHCE, the following healthcare services are being provided for the elderly:

- (a) Assessment of mental health issues among elderly through Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) at the community level through staff posted at Sub Health Centre.
- (b) Memory clinics, established at National Centre of Ageing (NCAs), are leveraged to provide specialized care services for addressing memory loss-related issues among elderly.

To address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India 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 767 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. The Government has also launched a **“National Tele Mental Health Programme”** to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country.
