

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1257
ANSWERED ON – 29/07/2026

SHORTAGE OF GERIATRICIANS AMID INDIA'S RAPIDLY AGEING POPULATION

1257. SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Ministry is aware that the country has only about 300–350 trained geriatricians for an elderly-population exceeding 150 million, despite the projected doubling of elderly population by 2050 and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether the Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens and other schemes under the Ministry account for this specialist shortage while planning elder-care infrastructure and number of geriatric care centres and day-care facilities currently functional under these schemes; and
- (c) whether Ministry proposes to coordinate with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to expand geriatric medicine-training and postgraduate seats, promote geriatric-specialisation and strengthen geriatric-care training for caregivers under its elder-care schemes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. As per the India Ageing Report 2023 of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-India, there were 149 million persons aged 60 years and above in 2022, comprising around 10.5 percent of the country's population. By 2050, the report estimates that the share of older persons will double to 20.8 percent at 347 million.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is implementing the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) to provide affordable, accessible, comprehensive and dedicated healthcare services to persons aged 60 years and above. It comprises the National Health Mission (NHM) component and a Tertiary Care component.

Under the NHM component, the NPHCE is currently functional in 730 districts, providing geriatric healthcare services through the public health system at various levels, including Sub-Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals. The services include Geriatric OPD, inpatient and physiotherapy services at designated health facilities. Under the Tertiary Care component, infrastructure and institutional capacity are being strengthened for specialized geriatric healthcare, postgraduate education, training and research. In this regard:

- **17 Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs)** have been sanctioned in regional medical institutions/ medical colleges across the country. These Centres provide specialized geriatric healthcare services, including OPD and IPD care and contribute to postgraduate training in Geriatric Medicine. They also conduct research and build the capacity of district and sub-district-level healthcare staff in geriatric care.
- **Two National Centres of Ageing (NCAs)** have been established at AIIMS, New Delhi and Madras Medical College, Chennai as apex centres for advanced and specialized geriatric healthcare, including OPD and IPD services, postgraduate training in Geriatric Medicine, research and manpower development.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, under the “System for Provision of Eldercare in House and Assisted Living (PM-SPECIAL)” component of the Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY), is focusing on building a professional workforce to meet the growing demand for specialized elderly care. The main objective is to bridge the gap between the supply and demand of geriatric caregivers to provide more professional services to senior citizens and also to create a cadre of professional caregivers in the field of geriatrics. The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) is the implementing agency for this scheme component. A total of 38,893 geriatric caregivers have been trained till date.

(c) No such proposal is presently under consideration.
