

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2709  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**SHORTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

**2709. DR. BHOLA SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the country is facing an acute shortage of mental healthcare professionals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the hospitals and Primary Health Centres are adequately staffed professionals to handle such cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): As per the National Survey of Mental Health Resources carried out by the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 2002, the ideal requirement of mental health professionals is estimated as under:

- i. Psychiatrists: 1.0 per 1,00,000 population
- ii. Clinical Psychologist: 1.5 per 1,00,000 population
- iii. Psychiatric Social Workers: 2.0 per 1,00,000 population
- iv. Psychiatric Nurses: 1.0 per 10 psychiatric beds.

Based on the available information, the details of present requirement and estimated availability of mental health professionals in the country is as under:

Manpower	Requirement	Availability
Psychiatrist	13500	3827
Clinical Psychologists	20250	898
Psychiatric Social Workers	37000	850
Psychiatric Nurses	3000	1500

To address the acute shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the country, the Central Government, under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), is providing support for implementation of manpower development schemes by States/UTs for establishment of Centres of Excellence and strengthening/ establishment of Post Graduate (PG) Departments in mental health specialties.

Till date, support has been provided for establishment of 21 Centres of Excellence and strengthening/ establishment of 39 Post Graduate (PG) Departments in mental health specialties in the country. These schemes have resulted in increasing the availability of additional Human Resource in the field of mental health.

(c) & (d): Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government to ensure availability of adequate staff at State Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres. However, the Central Government has supported implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) in 339 districts of the country for detection, management and treatment of mental disorders/ illness at District Hospital level and in rural areas through outreach activities by the DMHP teams. Besides, the Central Government is also providing support for recruitment of staff at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) and Community Health Centre (CHC) levels for providing basic mental health services. In addition, support is also provided for the training of the staff of District Hospital, CHC and PHC for providing basic mental health services by integration with the general health services.