

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4127  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

**SHORTAGE OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGISTS**

**4127. DR. UDIT RAJ:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that India has only 2000 oncologists for around 10 million patients and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether India is facing a severe shortage of surgical oncologists and radio therapists; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): The number of Oncologists available in the country is not maintained centrally. However, the Medical Council of India (MCI) informed that there are 495 permitted seats (annual intake) in the field of Oncology in various Medical Colleges/Institutions in India. As per Indian Council of Medical Research's Cancer Registry data, the estimated number of cancer cases in the country for the year 2017 was 15,17,426.

While doctors with D. M. (Medical Oncology), M.Ch (Surgical Oncology) and M.D. (Radiation Oncology) treat Cancer patients in higher level tertiary care hospitals, Cancer is also being treated in hospitals by other Doctors such as General Surgeons, Gynecologists, ENT Surgeons etc., depending on the type and site of Cancer.

(c): The Government has revised the ratio of teacher to students to 1:3 for Professor and 1:2 for Associate Professor in all clinical subjects that would result in increased intake and subsequently increase in number of available specialists including in the field of Surgical Oncology in the country.