

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1427
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

SHORTAGE OF NEUROLOGISTS

**1427. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:**

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

- (a) the total number of neurological patients and the present ratio of neurologist to neurological patients in the country;
- (b) whether the number of neurological patients are increasing at a fast pace in the country during the last few years and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has tried to ascertain the reasons behind shortage of neurologists in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome huge shortage of neurologists in the country;
- (e) whether more than 50 percent of the neurologists in the country are concentrated in the major metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai etc. and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to reduce the plight of patients suffering from neurological disorder in the country?

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

(a) to (f): As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 358 seats of DM Neurology in 94 Medical Colleges in the country. There has been an increase of 114 seats in the last 5 years. The data regarding the total number of neurological patients and

the present ratio of neurologist to neurological patients in the country is not maintained centrally.

To augment the availability of qualified manpower in field of mental health, the Government, under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), is implementing manpower development schemes 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 25 Centres of Excellence and strengthening/ establishment of 47 Post Graduate (PG) Departments in mental health specialties in the country.

The Government is also augmenting the availability of manpower to deliver mental healthcare services in the underserved areas of the country by providing online training courses to various categories of general healthcare medical and para medical professionals through the Digital Academies established at the three Central Mental Health Institutes namely National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam, and Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi.

Further, under the National Programme for Palliative Care, training modules have been developed for Medical Officers and Staff nurses for delivery of palliative care services at District Hospital, Community Health Centre and Primary Health Centre. State level Training of Trainers followed by district level and below trainings are also conducted in various States. Under the NMHP issues pertaining to epilepsy and other neurological disorders are addressed by the DMHP units through its OPD, IPD and Outreach services. The MNS (Mental Neurological and Substance Use Disorders) under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres also cater to neurological disorders.

The Government has launched a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” on 10th October, 2022, to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country. As on 31.01.2023, 25 States/ UTs have set up 36 Tele MANAS Cells and have started mental health services. As on 31.01.2023, a total of 43,861 calls have been handled on the helpline number.
