

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3930  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

**VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

**3930. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that dehumanization of healthcare has often resulted in violent confrontations between the citizens and hospitals thereby creating a hostile environment for medical professionals to work in and also putting their lives at risk and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps in this direction and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has issued any directions to states in this regard including to be more vigilant on the above aspect and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) 'Health' and 'Law & Order' is a State Subject and it is the primary responsibility of the State / Union Territory (UT) Government to take appropriate steps to protect healthcare professionals / institutions under provisions in India Penal Code (IPC) / Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC).

The Union Government of India has notified the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020 on 28th September, 2020. The Act provides that –

- (i) Acts of violence against healthcare personnel during any situation would be cognizable and non-bailable offences.
- (ii) Commission or abetment of such acts of violence or damage or loss to any property shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term of three months to five years, and with fine of Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 2,00,000/-.

(iii) In case of causing grievous hurt, imprisonment shall be for a term of six months to seven years and with fine of Rs. 1,00,000/- to Rs. 5,00,000/-.

(iv) In addition, the offender shall also be liable to pay compensation to the victim and twice the fair market value for damage of property.

Further, The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has, in order to prevent violence against doctors and for inculcating an effective sense of security among the doctors on duty, taken several measures including issuing advisories in this regard to all States/Union Territories (UTs) to consider the following:

- a) Security of sensitive hospitals to be managed by a designated and trained force,
- b) Installation of CCTV cameras and round the clock Quick Reaction Teams with effective communication / security gadgets particularly at Casualty, Emergency and areas having high footfalls,
- c) Well-equipped centralized control room for monitoring and quick response,
- d) Entry restriction for undesirable persons,
- e) Institutional FIR against assaulters,
- f) Display of legislation protecting doctors in every hospital and police station,
- g) Appointment of Nodal Officer to monitor medical negligence,
- h) Expeditious filling up of vacant posts of doctors and para-medical staff in hospitals / Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to avoid excessive burden / pressure on doctors and to maintain global doctor-patient ratio,
- i) Better infrastructural facilities and medical equipment and provision of extra monetary incentive for the doctors and para medical staff serving in hard/remote areas as compared to major and metro cities with better career prospects, etc.

The Ministry of Health & family Welfare has on multiple occasions, through formal communications as well as more recently through video conferences with States and UTs, highlighted the need to ensure safety and security of healthcare workers at their living/working premises.

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