

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 416
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st JULY, 2023**

MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR DENTAL HYGIENE

416. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

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

- (a) whether the dental hygienists having the most employability in the world are facing great neglect in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware about an outdated two years diploma course for dental hygienist in our country while its bachelor and master courses are conducted extensively in the world and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the dental hygienists have been completely marginalized in National Oral Health Programme and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware about the changes in the world's dental hygiene sector and not being properly utilized in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken/proposed to take any steps to include the representatives of dental hygienists in the Dental Council for their registration by giving them voting rights; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) & (b) The Dental Hygienists Course Regulations, 2008 is operational since 19th August, 2008. Bachelor and Master Courses in Dental Hygienists are not approved/recognized by the Central Government.

(c) National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) is an initiative of the 12th Plan period launched in the year 2014-15 to strengthen the public health facilities of the country for an accessible, affordable & quality oral health care delivery.

The program has two components as under:

NHM Component: Support is provided to States to set up Dental Care Units at District Hospitals or below. Support is provided for the following components:

- Manpower Support [Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant]
- Equipment including dental Chair
- Consumables for dental procedures
- Training and IEC activities

Therefore, under the programme the States have the opportunities to propose for the support of dental hygienist at the level of district hospital and below.

Tertiary Component:

- Regional nodal officers training program to enhance the program management skills, review the status of the program
- Preparing State/District level Trainers by conducting national, regional workshops to train the paramedical health functionaries associated in health care delivery.

The benefits of the programme are available to all sections of the community.

(d) The Government is aware about the changes in the world's dental hygiene sector and the services of dental hygienist are aptly utilized in the Country.

(e) & (f) The Dentists Act, 1948 does not provide for any such provision.
