

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1103  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08th DECEMBER, 2023**

**DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

**1103: SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:**

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that the services of dental hygienists are not effectively utilized in the country for dental health awareness and therefor facing great neglect across the country including Kerala and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for not adopting changes/practices of foreign countries dental hygiene sector in India;

(b) whether as part of National Oral Health Programme the post of Dental Hygienist has been allotted in Kerala and whether the Government proposes to start a bachelor dental hygiene course on the lines of AIIMS in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include a representative of Dental Hygienists in the Dental Council of India / State Dental Councils as nominated by the Government and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to rename the post of Dental Hygienist as Dental Hygiene Officer and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken note that there are no dental hygienists in the dental clinics operating in Kerala under the National Health Mission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with necessary steps taken in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (f) According to Dentist Act 1948, mutatis mutandis, "Dental Hygienist" is not a dentist or a medical practitioner. He scales, cleans or polishes teeth, or gives instructions in Dental Hygiene. The services of Dental Hygienists are effectively utilized in the country for the job they have been recruited for.

Health is a State subject. State of Kerala has 14 Dental Hygienists under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) which has been sanctioned under National Health Mission (NHM). However, no proposal for the post of Dental Hygienist has been received in the dental clinics operating in Kerala under National Oral Health Programme (NOHP).

All India Institute of Medical Sciences(AIIMS), New Delhi started B.Sc in Dental Hygiene in 2018 in line with the bachelor degree courses on Dental Hygiene in foreign countries. This course aims to increase high-quality Dental Hygienists workforce. A similar B.Sc course in Dental Hygiene has also commenced in other AIIMS across India.

Consequent upon enactment of National Dental Commission Act 2023, Dental Council of India shall be replaced by National Dental Commission.

The proposal to rename the post of Dental Hygienist as Dental Hygienist Officer has not been acceded to.

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