

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3814
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2022**

SHORTAGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

3814. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR (ALIAS) VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of acute shortage and disproportionate distribution of psychiatrists in the country particularly in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the necessary corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the ratio of psychiatrists to population and its impact on the healthcare sector in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to rope in ASHAs, mid-wives and other community health workers to bridge the shortage; and
- (e) 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) to (c): As per the National Mental Health Survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru in 12 States of the country, the treatment gap for mental disorders ranged between 70% to 92 % for different disorders. As per the Survey, the availability of psychiatrists in the 12 surveyed States ranged between 0.05 to 1.2 (per lakh population).

With a view 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.

Besides the above, the Government has announced a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” in the Budget of 2022-23, to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country.

(d) & (e): The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 provides for integration of mental health services into general healthcare services at all levels of healthcare including primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare and in all health programmes run by the appropriate Government. As such, the mental healthcare services are extended through various levels of healthcare delivery systems.

Further, the Government is implementing NMHP and District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) in this direction of community based care as the services are made available in the district headquarters and more peripheral health centres. Medical Officers and the field level workers of the PHCs and the other staff of the primary care settings are getting trained to identify and treat psychiatric disorders present in the community. Further, the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres are implementing the ‘Comprehensive Primary Health Care’ initiatives of which ‘mental health’ is an indispensable part.
