

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.285
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th July, 2021**

**INCREASED INCIDENTS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST
DOCTORS AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

**285 SHRI SANJAY SETH:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:**

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

- (a) whether there is increased incidence of physical violence against the doctors and healthcare professionals in the country during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and, if so, the details of such cases reported and action taken against such attackers
- (b) whether Indian Medical Association (IMA) has also held a nationwide stir against such incidents and, if so, the details thereof
- (c) whether IMA has demanded a central law to curb such cases and the reaction of Government thereto and
- (d) the other steps taken by Government to prevent physical violence against the doctors and health care professionals?

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

(a): As per Constitutional provisions, 'Health' and 'Law & Order' are State subjects. Details of number of instances of attacks on doctors and healthcare professionals in the country are not maintained Centrally.

(b) to (d): IMA has organized a nation-wide protest on the 18th June 2021 and has demanded Central Government to enact stringent laws and its proper implementation to curtail violence.

For inculcating an effective sense of security among the doctors on duty, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has also issued an advisory to all States/UTs to consider immediate measures, such as:

- I. Security of sensitive hospitals to be managed by a designated and trained force,

- II. 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,
- III. Well-equipped centralized control room for monitoring and quick response,
- IV. Entry restriction for undesirable persons,
- V. Institutional FIR against assaulters,
- VI. Display of legislation protecting doctors in every hospital and police station,
- VII. Appointment of Nodal Officer to monitor medical negligence,
- VIII. 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,
- IX. 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.

On a subsequent occasion, the Minister of Health & family Welfare wrote to the Chief Ministers of all States to ensure rule of law so that doctors and clinical establishments may discharge their duties and professional pursuit without any fear of violence; and to take action against the perpetrators of violence against doctors, as per law.

In the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Government of India also passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2000 on 28th September 2020. The Amended Act provides that acts of violence against healthcare personnel during any situation akin to current pandemic would be cognizable and non-bailable offences. Commission or abetment of such acts of violence shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of three months to five years, and with fine of Rs.50,000/- to Rs.2,00,000/-. 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/-. In addition, the offender shall also be liable to pay, compensation to the victim and twice the fair market value for damage of property.