

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1535
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH MARCH, 2022**

SHORTAGE OF NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRIC WORK FORCE

1535. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite an exponential rise in neurological diseases, the neurology and psychiatric work force has not grown proportionally; and
- (b) if so, the remedial steps that have been taken/ being taken by Government keeping in view the fact that India has inadequate specialist manpower with fewer than 2500 neurologists, 1800 neurosurgeons, 200 palliative care physicians and around 9000 psychiatrists now?

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

(a) & (b): 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.

Further, under the National Programme for Palliative Care, training modules have been developed for Medical Officers and Staff nurses for delivery of palliative care services at District Hospital, Community Health Centre and Primary Health Centre. State level Training of Trainers followed by district level and below trainings are also conducted in various States.

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.