

Need to implement appropriate policies to provide coverage and support for mental well-being of people and to revisit the Acts related to mental health ? laid

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD): I draw the attention of the Government towards the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Act 2021 and its implications on Clinical Psychologists. The Act aims to provide regulatory bodies for various healthcare professionals, except Clinical Psychologists, who remain under the purview of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) through the Mental Health Act 2017. This raises the question of why Clinical Psychologists have been excluded, infringing upon their right to equality. I urge the Government to revisit the Acts related to mental health and make necessary amendments to ensure comprehensive care, defining temporary mental health conditions, and safeguarding patient rights. A study of the existing mental health laws, spectrum of mental healthcare, and patient protection for undefined conditions is essential to address this issue adequately. Once the Acts are amended, non-disabling or temporary mental health care and therapy should be included in insurance policies with support from the Finance Ministry. With the rising prevalence of mental health issues, it is crucial to implement appropriate policies to provide coverage and support for mental well-being services. I seek clarity on the Government's policy regarding insurance coverage for mental health services and its commitment to the inclusion of such services in the existing insurance

packages. The holistic well-being of our citizens must be a priority, and by addressing these concerns, we can take significant steps towards building a mentally healthier society. I implore the Government to act swiftly and diligently in this regard, promoting mental health care and its related services.