

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1945

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011

BONE RELATED DISEASES

Gorakhnath Shri ;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the number of patients suffering from various bone related diseases including arthritis is on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor indicating the estimated number of such patients in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to provide affordable treatment to such patients;
- (d) whether there is shortage of orthopaedics in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof indicating their number alongwith the steps taken to meet their shortage in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): The exact number of cases of bone related diseases including arthritis in India is not known. There are no time trend studies available in the Ministry to confirm or refute if there is rising trend in the prevalence or incidence of bone related diseases including arthritis in India.

(c): Bone related diseases including arthritis cases are diagnosed and treated in hospitals in the health care delivery system at district hospitals in addition to Medical Colleges and apex institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh & Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry. The bone related diseases including arthritis cases are seen by Physician, orthopaedic Surgeon, and Paediatrician etc. depending on the type of ailments. Treatment in the Government hospitals is either free or subsidised.

(d) & (e): The exact number of orthopaedicians in the country is not known. However, it is felt that the number of orthopaedicians need to be increased further. Government of India has initiated a Scheme "Upgradation and Strengthening of State Government Medical Colleges for starting new postgraduate disciplines and increasing postgraduate seats". This entail increase the number of postgraduate seats including orthopaedics in Medical Colleges in the country.