

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:54  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013  
SHORTAGE OF NEUROLOGISTS  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been a steady increase in the number of people suffering from neurological diseases in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of qualified neurologists to attend to the increasing needs of patients suffering from neurological diseases in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor indicating the estimated number of qualified neurologists in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to overcome the shortage of neurologists and for treatment and care of patients suffering from neurological diseases in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) As per WHO, there has been a steady increase of neurological disorders globally (including India). Neurological disorders contributed to 4.2% of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 1996 which increased to 6.29% of DALYs in 2005. This is estimated to increase to 6.77% in 2030. The increase is partly due to longevity associated neurological diseases and partly due to improved awareness of such diseases among people.

(c) & (d) There is a shortage of qualified neurologists in the country with approximately 1100 neurologists available in India. The shortage can be attributed to lack of teaching infrastructure and faculty for providing training and capacity building in the country. As per Medical Council of India, 154 seats of DM – Neurology are available in the country in 51 Institutions.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to overcome the shortage of neurologists and for treatment and care of patients suffering from neurological diseases in the country include:

- i. Increase in the number of seats by Medical Council of India in all the centres providing training in Neurology.
- ii. Establishment of six AIIMS like institutions in the country.
- iii. Upgrading State Medical Colleges across the country so that these centres can impart training and services in Neurology.