

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4442  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014  
PHYSIOTHERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

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

- (a) whether there is adequate number of physiotherapists and occupational therapists in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) whether physiotherapists and occupational therapists are being given various allowances including non-practicing and post-graduation allowances throughout the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to determine standards for physiotherapy and occupational therapy and to ensure their uniform enforcement throughout the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a): Due to lack of regulatory body for physiotherapist and occupational therapists, the exact numbers of professionals working under these two groups are not known.  
In order to know the status of allied health professionals in the country, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) conducted a study and published report with technical support from Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in 2012.  
As per the report, the healthcare system lacks 64 lakh allied health providers in all streams as indicated in Annexure. Physiotherapist and Occupational therapist, based on their work profile come under rehabilitation group. The details of supply demand gap of rehabilitation group has been mentioned in the Annexure along with other professions.  
Measures and initiatives taken by the Ministry in this regards are as follows:
1. Formation of "National Board of Allied Health Sciences" to standardize the allied health education system.
  2. Establishment of National Institute of Allied Health Sciences (NIAHS) and Regional Institutes of Allied Health Sciences (RIAHS) to meet the demand of allied health professional in the country and to provide quality education.
- (b): Due to lack of Central regulatory authority in the sector there is no structured/ standard allowance system being followed throughout the country.
- (c): Initiatives taken by Ministry to determine Standard courses for Allied Health Sciences including Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy are as under:
- i. Formation of National Board of Allied Health Sciences (NBAHS) to standardize the allied health education system.
  - ii. Establishment of National Institute of Allied Health Sciences (NIAHS) and Regional Institutes of Allied Health Sciences (RIAHS) to meet the demand of allied health professionals in the country and to provide quality education.
  - iii. Formation of "Curricula Review Committee" to review the existing allied health courses in India and to create a standardized course curriculum and framework. This will help to improve the quality of education and the profession.
  - iv. Apart from these, strengthening the existing Government Medical Colleges to start new Allied Health courses and to upgrade the existing Allied Health education and profession in the country are being taken by the Ministry.