

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to set up an independent Physiotherapy Council of India.

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA): I raise an important issue being faced by the Physiotherapists in India. Before coming to the issue, it is pertinent to mention certain facts. At present there are 296 colleges offering under graduate Physiotherapy Programme and 116 colleges offering Masters in Physiotherapy. PhD Programme is offered at 16 Colleges and Universities in India. 65000 Qualified Physiotherapists are practicing in the country. 35000 students are engaged in the profession. According to Census 2001, the elderly population in rural India is 12.2 million and 31.8 million are in urban areas. There is no facility of Physiotherapy in rural areas. With this background and the fact that the World Health Organization have defined Physiotherapists as independent healthcare professionals to assess, plan and treat, I would, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to consider setting up an independent Physiotherapy Council of India.