

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2060  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2021**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST DOCTORS AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

**2060 DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR:**

**SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:**

**DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:**

**DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:**

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:**

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:**

**SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

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

- (a) whether incidence of physical violence against the doctors and health care professionals in the country have increased during second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details of such cases reported and action taken thereon;
- (b) whether Indian Medical Association (IMA) has also held a nationwide stir against such incidents and has demanded a central law to curb such cases, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enact a central protection law with provisions under CrPC and IPC and the mandatory security structure for all the government and private hospitals and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has directed all State Governments to enact specific laws to deal with such incidents and if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to prevent physical violence against the doctors and healthcare professionals?

## **ANSWER**

### **THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e)

IMA has organized a nation-wide protest on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 on the issue of physical violence against doctors and health care professionals in the country during the pandemic.

Union Government in course of regular reviews/interactions with States has repeatedly impressed upon the importance of ensuring the safety and security of health workers which are the most precious resource and support in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, in order to effectively deal with and prevent violence against doctors/health care professionals, an Ordinance duly amending the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 was promulgated on April 22, 2020. The Ordinance was further notified as the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020 on September 29, 2020.

The amended Act provides that any act of violence against health care personnel would be cognizable and non-bailable offence. Commission or abetment of such acts of violence shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term ranging from three months to five years and with a fine of Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 2,00,000/-. In case of causing grievous hurt, imprisonment shall be for a term of six months to seven years and with a fine of Rs 1,00,000/- to Rs 5,00,000/-

In this regard, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through its letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 has also requested States to undertake detailed review and ensure that prompt and necessary steps are taken for the safety of health care workers besides strict implementation of the amended Epidemic Disease Act.