

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to implement the approved cadre restructure and career progression for physiotherapists in the country - Laid.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the cadre restructuring of Physiotherapists, a long pending issue. Physiotherapy is applicable to all fields from Paediatrics to Geriatrics. As per the 23rd Report of Estimates Committee, Physiotherapy is capable of playing an important role in treatment of musculoskeletal conditions, chronic conditions like cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity and hypertension. As per model curriculum approved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Physiotherapists are first point of consultants for all patients within the health care system like general practitioner within the health care system. Physiotherapy spans the continuum from health promotion to prevention to rehabilitation for individuals and population throughout the lifespan. In spite of all the above, physiotherapists are experiencing great injustice and apathy in terms of their pay scales and carrier progression. By examining the structure of pay scales and career progression from 1961 till date, physiotherapists are being degraded as compared to staff nurse and radiographers. As regards, total emolument for staff nurse, it is Rs. 1,23,100 and that of radiographers is Rs. 78,800 but for physiotherapists, it is only Rs. 56,100 which is very low. This is to be corrected and modified.

The entry level qualification for physiotherapists has been revised by the Government from existing Diploma course to a full-fledged Bachelor Degree in Physiotherapy with two years practical experience with desirable Masters Degree qualification.

Taking all this into cognizance, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare to implement the approved cadre restructure and career progression for

physiotherapists as per model curriculum released/ outlined by the Ministry to give equality and justice to physiotherapists in the country.