

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 18.11.2002**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY .**

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PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the WHO Report, about 25 million people are in need of mental health services in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the facilities provided to the psychiatry department in different Government hospitals in various States; and
- (d) the details of the shortcomings being faced by these Government hospitals due to lack of funds, etc.?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c) & (d) There are over 18,000 beds for psychiatric patients spread across 37 Government mental hospitals/hospitals affiliated to medical colleges. There are over 3000 qualified Psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country. Availability of psychotropic drugs is satisfactory and the cost of such drugs is reasonable/affordable. The National Mental Health Programme during the Xth Plan envisages to upgrade the infrastructural facilities of the mental health hospitals and psychiatric wings of medical colleges in the country.