

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 03.12.2001
ANSWERED ON
STATUS OF MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY .

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SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA

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

- (a) the current status of mental health facilities in the country with regard to doctors, hospitals and drug manufacturing;
- (b) whether there is a policy to tackle the growing mental illness of various modes in India and undertake research projects for it;
- (c) whether social awareness programmes are conducted by Government and various State Governments;
- (d) the size of populace suffering from mental illness; and
- (e) whether Government have conducted any census or survey of mental patients in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) and (b) There are over 18,000 beds for psychiatric patients spread across 37 Government mental hospitals in the country. In addition there are about 3500 beds located in general hospitals/hospitals affiliated to medical colleges. There are about 40 training centres for post-graduate study in psychiatry. In addition there are 40 to 50 private psychiatric facilities in the country. Availability of psychotropic drugs is satisfactory and the cost of such drugs is reasonable/affordable. Under the National Mental Health Programme, the Government has already initiated a pilot programme named the District Mental Health Programme, which is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary healthcare centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives. The mental health care delivery system is proposed to be upgraded/expanded during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. A number of research projects have been undertaken and major research initiatives are planned for the Tenth Five Year Plan period.

(c) Information, Education and Communication(IEC) activities are also a component of District Mental Health Programme for creating social awareness.

(d) and (e) Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.