

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.03.2002
ANSWERED ON
HEALTH CARE CENTRES FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS .

58

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURE, OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that under the provisions of Mental Health Act, 1987, Government have to set-up at least one health care centres for the mentally challenged persons in the States;
- (b) the number of centres, so far, set-up in the States; and
- (c) whether Government propose to increase their number in view of the deplorable conditions in some private mental asylums?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(c):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 58 FOR 4.3.2002

Mental Health Act, 1987, provides that `The Central Government may, in any part of India, or the State Government may, within the limits of its jurisdiction, establish or maintain psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric nursing homes for the admission, treatment and care of mentally ill persons at such places as it thinks fit.` The State/Central Government, therefore, decide in the matter keeping in view the disease burden and other connected issues.

The present policy of the Government is to strengthen the infrastructural facilities and services in the existing mental hospital/institutions in order to maximize the benefits to the mentally ill persons, rather than create new infrastructure, at this stage. At present, there are 40 Mental Health Care institutions in the Public Sector which includes Central Government institutes like NIMHANS and CIP, Ranchi.

The aim of the Government is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives. Towards this aim, District Mental Health Programme has already been initiated under the National Mental Health Programme and is presently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories in the country.

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