

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 101
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020
OBJECTIVES OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

†*101. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) whether the objectives of National Mental Health Policy and the Mental Health Care Act are to provide accessible, affordable and good quality medical treatment to the mentally ill persons;
- (b) whether as per the National Health Profile report released by the Ministry, there is not even a single mental hospital available in six States and seven Union Territories of the country;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide medical treatment to the fifteen crore people who require an immediate medical attention; and
- (d) by when the adequate number of mental hospitals would be set up in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.101* FOR 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020**

(a) to (d): The objectives of the National Mental Health Policy, inter-alia, include improving access to and utilization of comprehensive mental health services by persons with mental health problems, including those belonging to vulnerable groups, reduction in prevalence and impact of risk factors associated with mental health problems and to provide appropriate interventions. The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 aims to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

For providing affordable and accessible mental healthcare facilities, the Government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 655 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. Facilities made available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre(CHC) and Primary Health Centre(PHC) levels, inter-alia, include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc. In addition to above services there is a provision of 10 bedded in-patient facility at the District level. The service delivery for mental healthcare through DMHP is aligned with the provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 to provide treatment in a manner which supports persons with mental illness to live in the community and with their families. Under the Tertiary care component of NMHP, 25 Centres of Excellence have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialities as well as to provide tertiary level treatment facilities. In addition, the Government has also supported 19

Government medical colleges/institutions to strengthen 47 PG Departments in mental health specialities.

Public health and hospitals is a State subject and setting up of hospitals is primarily within the domain of State Governments. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of State Governments. As per available information, there are 47 Government run mental health hospitals in the country, including 3 Central mental health institutions, viz. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi and Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam. There are no Government run mental health hospitals in 5 Union Territories of A & N Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry and in 4 States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim. However, Departments of Psychiatry is available in Medical Colleges/Hospitals in Manipur, Sikkim and Puducherry. Besides, the Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam is also catering to the needs of patients from all North Eastern States

With a view to further increase mental healthcare facilities in the country, Department of Psychiatry has been set up in each of the 6 newly established All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and similar provision has been made in the upcoming 15 new AIIMS. Similarly, many other Central as well as State Government hospitals also have Psychiatry Departments.
