

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 20.02.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**MENTAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

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MISS MABEL REBELLO

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :-

- (a) Whether 7 per cent Indians or around 7 crore people in the country suffer from mental disorder in one or the other form, but the healthcare facilities are woefully inadequate;
- (b) whether the National Human Rights Commission has taken up this serious issue with the Medical Council of India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what is the action plan of Government to address this concern?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): According to a recent survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), the prevalence of mental disorders in the country is about 7% of the population. Close to 3% of the population need active treatment. Unlike in the past, effective medications have reduced the need for admission and facilitating patients to get back to their normal schedule first. Apart from 43 Govt. Mental Health Institutes, Psychiatric Wings of all Medical Colleges and General Hospitals provide treatment facilities for mentally ill patients.

There is, however, shortage of psychiatrists and mental health professionals in the country.

(b) & (c): Following the discussion held under the auspices of the National Human Rights Commission(NHRC) that Medical Council of India (MCI) would create more awareness among medical colleges to take up Postgraduate course in Psychiatry to cover the shortage of manpower in the field, the NHRC had asked the MCI to indicate the steps being taken by it to increase the number of Psychiatrists in the country. The MCI has reported that it has already granted permission during the years 2005 to 2008 for starting MD (Psychiatry) degree course to 18 Institutes, DPM course to 7 Institutes and increasing the number of seats in MD (Psychiatry) course to 4 Institutes. This has resulted in addition of 25 seats in MD (Psychiatry) course and 8 seats in DPM course.

(d): Under National Mental Health Programme, efforts are made to provide mental health services as a part of general health system. In this regard, Central Government supplements the State Governments' efforts through District Mental health Programme (DMHP), upgradation of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and strengthening/modernisation of Mental hospitals to make them as therapeutic units. The Central Government has proposed to restructure the National Mental Health Programme(NMHP) during the 11th Five Year Plan to extend DMHP to more districts in the country in a phased manner. To address the acute shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the country, manpower development schemes under the NMHP for setting up of centres of excellence in mental health and PG training departments in mental health specialities are under active consideration. Training is also being provided to medical officers and health staff to implement the Programme. It has been proposed to intensify training using standard training modules both in terms of duration and frequency.