

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 25.04.2008
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE DEATHS DUE TO MENTAL DISORDER .

3457

SHRI B.J. PANDA

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is unabated increase in the suicide deaths in the country and mental disorder is the main cause;
- (b) whether Government is working on preventive measures;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) how far is the loneliness factor responsible for this cause among the elderly; and
- (e) what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 113697, 113914 and 118112 suicides were reported in the country during 2004, 2005 & 2006. However, the rate of suicides (number of suicides per one lakh population) shows a mixed trend. A total of 7117, 7604 and 8045 suicides were reported in the country due to insanity/mental illness during 2004 to 2006, accounting for 6.3%, 6.7% and 6.8% of the total suicides in the respective years.

(b)&(c): It is envisaged to restructure the National Mental Health Programme during the 11th Five Year Plan period to include suicide prevention, stress management, counseling services for Schools and Colleges under District Mental Health Programme with active participation of community based organizations. Under District Mental Health Programme, School/College teachers, general physicians and health workers would be trained to identify signs of stress and depression in students. District Mental Health Programme would be extended all over the country in a phased manner.

(d) Loneliness resulting from different causes is a significant contributor for suicides in the elderly.

(e) District Mental Health Programme is being restructured during the 11th Five Year Plan period so as to include, amongst others, suicide prevention services.