

Need to ensure strict compliance with the guidelines for treatment and rehabilitation of Persons with Mental Illness (PWMI) -Laid

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): I would like to address a critical issue regarding the rights of persons with mental illnesses (PwMIs). The Mental Healthcare Act of 2017 guarantees the right to community living, but many individuals who are deemed "fit for discharge" continue to be confined in mental health establishments due to a lack of community-based facilities like halfway homes. The intention behind halfway homes was to facilitate the seamless reintegration of PwMIs into society after prolonged institutionalization. The inaccurate data on the Manoashraya dashboard tracking rehabilitation and halfway homes, published by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is particularly concerning. The data is riddled with discrepancies, including duplicate entries, inconsistent information, and missing reports from crucial states. This failure to maintain accurate records only perpetuates the delay in providing adequate care and rehabilitation to PwMIs. I urge the Union Government to clean up the data, publish accurate records of the halfway homes in the country, and ensure strict compliance with the various Guidelines for the rehabilitation of PwMIs that have been issued. It is crucial that the treatment and rehabilitation of PwMIs is enshrined in a rights-based approach that is centered around their autonomy and dignity.