

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2952
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
RISE IN PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS
Chauhan Shri Nihal Chand

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

- (a) whether the number of Psychiatric patients is increasing in our country as reported in the Hindi daily `Dainik Jagran` dated July 24, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the ratio of men to women patients in detail, State-wise;
- (d) whether women patients outnumbered men;
- (e) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (f) the number of hospitals/rehabilitation centers functioning in our country for treatment, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help and cure the suffering patients?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) and (b): The number of persons with mental disorders is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.
- (c) to (e): Data relating to number of mental patients, state-wise and sex-wise, is not centrally maintained.
- (f): There are 37 mental health institutes in the Government sector :- Andhra Pradesh-2; Assam-1; Delhi-1;Goa-1;Gujarat-4;Jammu-2;Jharkhand-2;Karnataka-2;Kerala-3;Madhya Pradesh-2;Maharashtra-4;Nagaland-1;Punjab-1;Rajasthan-1;Tamil Nadu-1;Uttar Pradesh-3; West Bengal-6. There are more than 120 private psychiatric hospitals in the country. There are 50 rehabilitation centers run by NGOs. A number of Government medical colleges have departments of psychiatry.
- (g): During the 10th Five Year Plan, the Government has launched National Mental Health Programme in order to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country; to strengthen the Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of medical colleges and to undertake IEC activities and research and training. These measures will result in improvement of mental health services in the country.