

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1218
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS
Baxla Shri Joachim

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

- (a) the number of mental hospitals and details of faculties in psychiatry department in medical colleges in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of people who sought psychiatric care treatment during the last three years, year-wise and hospital-wise;
- (c) the per-capita practicing psychiatrists in the country as at present alongwith patient-psychiatrist ratio during the said period;
- (d) whether there is exodus of psychiatrists from colleges/hospitals of the country on a large scale;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) There are 37 Government mental hospitals in the country. In addition, there are 262 Medical Colleges under the Government. Most of these colleges have Department of Psychiatry. The data relating to the number of people seeking psychiatric care; number of patients admitted for treatment; and the number of faculty in psychiatry departments in medical colleges are not centrally maintained. The per-capita practicing psychiatrists works out to 1 Psychiatrist per 4,50,000 population, approximately, as assessed during the mental health resources survey carried out in May, 2002.

(d) to (f) Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of psychiatrists seeking employment in advanced countries like U.K., U.S.A & Australia owing to demand of such Specialists in these countries as well as improvement in one's prospects, professional and academic and financial considerations which happens world-wide. The Government is upgrading psychiatric wards of Government Medical Colleges so as to enable them to start Post-Graduate Courses.