

Regarding prevalence of Dementia among the elderly population of the country-laid

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Recently a pan-India study has found that dementia is prevalent among an estimated 7.4% of the country's elderly people, which means 8.8 million individuals aged 60 years and older suffer from the debilitating ailment that affects memory and cognitive function. As we know, Dementia adversely affects not only the individual but also his/her family (significant carer burden and poor quality of life) and society (economic and social costs), and is a significant cause of disability in late - life. Although there have been no significant national level programmes focusing on dementia.

Dementia should be acknowledged not only as a national public health priority but also as a social care priority. I request the Government that there should be a National Dementia Plan with allocated funds to see it through has to be in place so elderly Indians can be saved at an age where they require more care. With the help of Academicians, Researchers and NGOs, Government should launch a national level campaign for the increasing awareness about Dementia.