

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5690

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001

MENTAL DISORDERS

JASWANT SINGH YADAV;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

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

- (a) whether it is fact that mental disorders is increasing in the country during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction;
- (d) whether WHO has observed 2001 as the year of Mental Health; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The number of persons with mental illness 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) The Government has already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.

(d) & (e) WHO had declared the theme of the World Health Day on 7.4.2001 as 'Mental health; Stop Exclusion - Dare to Care'. A WHO sponsored Global School Contest was organised to promote awareness on mental health issues. In addition, symposiums were held to highlight issue related the Mental Health.