

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:93
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
ERADICATION OF DEPRESSION DISEASE
BHAVNA DEVRAJ CHIKHALIA

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Depression Ka Kaher` appeared in the Nav Bharat Times dated June 22, 2000;
- (b) whether doctors have warned in a seminar that depression is second fatal disease after heart attach of this century;
- (c) if so, the reasons given by the doctors for the evils of this disease; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to control depression?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Depression is one of the common problem in the World and affects 3-4% of the global population.
- (c) Depression is caused by psycho-social factors like stress and trauma and also by biological factors like imbalances in levels of neuro-transmitters in the brain and harmones in the human body. Depression may also be cause by changes in brain structure and medication.
- (d) Depression is a form of mental illness and facilities for treatment are available in a large number of tertiary hospitals both in the Government and Private sector. To provide better provision of mental health services by developing community based mental health services integrated with existing primary health care services, a District Mental Health Programme has been launched by the Government under the National Mental Health Programme in 1996-97 and it is under implementation in 22 districts spread over 20 States in the Country.