

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:207  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004  
RECRUITMENT OF PSYCHIATRISTS  
Meghwal Shri Kailash

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there are approximately 6 crore people in India suffering from one mental ailment or the other and only about 3600 psychiatrists are there in the country for the treatment of these diseases ;
- (b) whether the Government would take a decision to recruit more psychiatrists as according to statistics the psychiatrists patients ratio is 1:16000;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): It is estimated that 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorders such as depression, neurotics, stress related and adjustment disorders. About 1% of the population suffers from serious mental disorders such as psychotic disorders and 0.5% of the population may be in need of active treatment for serious mental disorder. There are over 3000 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country.

The efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health delivery system. For this purpose under the National Mental Health Programme, the General Duty Medical Officers are given short term training in the field of psychiatry for handling cases of mental illness.