

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2222

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

MENACE OF DEAFNESS

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

- (a) the number of persons suffering from progressive and acute Deafness in the country, State-wise, rural, urban and children separately;
- (b) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government;
- (c) whether any pilot programme to the healthcare professional as prevention of Deafness has been launched;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India will be assisted in the project;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether any media awareness programmes are being proposed to educate people so as to treat deafness before it becomes acute; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) As per WHO figures given in its report "Hearing & Ear Care in South East Asia Region", overall estimated prevalence of significant Auditory impairment, based on population based surveys in India is 6.3%. No state wise/Rural/Urban figures are available. However, the prevalence of adult onset deafness is 7.6% and that of childhood onset deafness is 2.0%

(b)to(h)A pilot phase of the National Programme for prevention and control of Deafness has been launched in 25 districts of 10 states and 1 UT with the objective :

1. To prevent the avoidable hearing loss on account of disease or injury.
2. Early identification, diagnosis and treatment of ear problems responsible for hearing loss and deafness.
3. To medically rehabilitate persons of all age groups, suffering with deafness.
4. To strengthen the existing intersectoral linkages for continuity of the rehabilitation programme, for persons with deafness.
5. To develop institutional capacity for ear care services by providing support for equipment and material and training personnel.

The broad components of the programme include:

1. MANPOWER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT – For prevention, early identification and management of hearing impaired and deafness cases, training would be provided from medical college level specialists to grass root level workers.
2. CAPACITY BUILDING – for the district hospital, CHC and PHC in respect of ENT/ Audiology infrastructure.
3. SERVICE PROVISION INCLUDING REHABILITATION – management of hearing and speech impaired cases and rehabilitation at different levels of health care delivery system.
4. AWARENESS GENERATION THROUGH IEC ACTIVITIES – for early identification of hearing impaired, especially children so that timely management of such cases is possible and to remove the stigma attached to deafness.

The training of manpower i.e. Doctors and health personnel in the selected districts and training of school/teachers would be carried out in collaoration with Rehabilitation Council of India.

Media awareness programme to educate the people regarding various causes of Deafness, its prevention and management is part of the pilot programme.