

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1256
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
AWARENESS OF HEART DISEASES
Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the increase in the heart diseases in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has a proposal to provide adequate treatment facilities for the heart patients in the States where the number of heart patients is substantial;
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard in 2004-05 particularly in Orissa?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): According to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, heart diseases especially coronary heart disease is on the rise and is also occurring in younger persons (below 40 years of age). This increase is suggested to be linked to change in life style such as decreased physical activity, changing food habits, increase in fat and sugar consumption, low intake of fiber and micro nutrients (folic acid, antioxidants) etc.

(c)&(d): Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to provide treatment facilities for heart ailments including surgical interventions. However, Central Government under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi is providing grant for respective State Illness Assistance Fund for providing financial assistance for treatment of poor patients suffering from major illness such as cardiac problems and renal disorders which require treatment in a super-speciality hospital and involve heavy expenditure. Since heart diseases are life style related diseases, the Government is also spreading health messages through electronic media to increase public health awareness about heart diseases and healthy living practices.