

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1311
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
ELECTRICITY CURRENT THERAPY
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

(a) whether the government is aware that inspite of repeated instructions by the WHO and the Government, the prescribed rules regarding Electricity Current Therapy(ECP) are not being followed in treatment of mental patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the new steps taken by the Government to stop misuse of Mental Health Act and ensure availability of modern equipment in Government hospitals for treatment of mental patients?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Neither the Government nor the WHO have issued any guidelines regarding the use of Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT) in the treatment of mental patients. ECT is a standard form of psychiatric treatment, in use since 1937 and the technical guidelines are part of post-graduate psychiatric training.

(c): The Central and State Mental Health Authorities created under the Mental Health Act, 1987 and rules, are entrusted with the task of ensuring the observance of the various provisions of the said Act and Rules. Specific instances of misuse, if any, are dealt with under the normal laws of the land. The restructured National Mental Health Programme, under the 10th Five Year Plan, has made provisions for the modernization of mental hospitals and departments of psychiatry in Government Medical College.