

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1486  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
REVIEW OF NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME  
Pal Shri Jagdambika

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

- (a) whether according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), about 7-15 percent of children suffer from significant mental disorder in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to review the contents of the National Mental Health Programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide better care facilities to the patients?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) : As per a study conducted by the ICMR during 1995-2000 at Bangalore and Lucknow, the prevalence rate of child and adolescent psychiatric disorders has been estimated at 12-13 % in children aged 0-16 years (excluding specific learning disability). The prevalence rate at Bangalore was 12.5 % and at Lucknow, 12.1 %. The most common illness was nocturnal enuresis. The other common mental disorders were simple phobia, stammering, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and oppositional defiant disorder.

(c) to (e) : The Union Government has reviewed the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) for the 11th Five Year Plan. With a view to address the acute shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the country, manpower development schemes have been added under the NMHP for setting up of centres of excellence in mental health and PG training departments in mental health specialities. Funding support is being continued for District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under implementation in the existing Districts, upgradation of psychiatric wings of Govt. Medical Colleges/ General Hospitals and modernization of Govt. Mental Hospitals on existing norms.

It has also been proposed to re-strategise the NMHP during the 11th Five Year Plan to extend DMHP to more districts in the country with added components of suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges. Further, it has been envisaged to include Public Private Partnerships for reaching out and providing services to the mentally ill persons.