

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2479
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
RISE IN MENTAL AILMENT PATIENTS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the number of patients with mental ailments is constantly increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is an acute shortage of psychiatrists in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up counselling centres in various parts of the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to make up the shortage of psychiatrists in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b) : Epidemiological studies from various parts of the country indicate that prevalence of mental ailments is 6-7% though state wise data is not available. With increase in the population the estimated absolute number of patients with mental ailments is increasing. However, there is no conclusive evidence based upon epidemiological studies done in the same population at two different times to show that the prevalence is increasing in the country.

(c) & (d) : Against a requirement of about 11,500 psychiatrist in the country only about 3500 psychiatrists are available.

To address this shortage Government has approved Manpower Development schemes under National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) to increase the PG training capacity for producing more mental health professionals including psychiatrists.

The Government also plans to train general duty medical officers in psychiatry for 4 months for addressing the shortage of psychiatrists for the NMHP.

(e) & (f) : Yes sir, under the revised NMHP the Government proposes to set up a counselling center in each district under District Mental Health Programme (DMHP). The counselling center would be outsourced to psychology department of university/ college in the DMHP district.

(g): Government has approved Manpower Development schemes under NMHP for addressing shortage of psychiatrists in the country.