

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5694
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010
CASES OF AUTISM
Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether there is a rise in the cases of autism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such cases, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the treatment of such patients;
- (d) whether any financial assistance has been provided to the Non- Governmental Organisations (NGO) for the care and treatment of autistic patients; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There is no record of enumeration of Autism, which is a neuro –developmental disorder in the country.

(c): Autism is a neuro-developmental disability for which no cure or treatment is available. However, with early detection and intervention it can be managed. Therefore steps have been taken for creating awareness, diagnosis and early intervention.

Under the National Trust Act, 1999, a number of activities are undertaken like caregivers courses, training and public awareness programmes.

Early Intervention Programmes are being conducted in collaboration with Voice and Mission, Mumbai, and by the State Nodal Agency Center of National Trust in Delhi in Govt. Hospitals. Awareness Programme is being conducted throughout the country by the registered organizations of the National Trust.

National Trust runs several schemes like Samarth (Residential Center), Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme), Aspiration (Day Care Centre), Gyan Prabha (Scholarship Scheme), Uddyam Prabha (Interest Subsidy Scheme) all over the country.

The Rehabilitation Council of India has given accreditation to Centres to run courses for training teachers in the management of people with ASD.

The Government of India has adopted community based care of mentally ill persons under District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), a component of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). Under DMHP, a mental health team led by a psychiatrist is placed in a district to provide services, training to general health care personnel for identification and treatment of common mental illnesses and conduct IEC activities for awareness.

To address the shortage of qualified mental health professionals, manpower development schemes for setting up of centers of excellence in mental health and PG training departments in mental health specialties have been approved under the NMHP for the 11th Five Year Plan.

(d) & (e): National Trust runs several schemes like Samarth (Residential centre), Niramaya(Health Insurance Scheme), Aspiration (Day Care Center), Gyan Prabha (Scholarship Scheme), Uddyam Prabha (Interest Subsidy Scheme), Sahyogi (Caregivers Training Scheme), GHARAUNDA etc all over the country for the welfare of four disabilities i.e. Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

The funds under all of the above schemes are provided for all four disabilities. Details of funds released is annexed.