

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5179
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
END OF LIFECARE
M.Thambidurai Dr.

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

- (a) whether India ranks lowest amongst the nations in its `end-of-life care`, according to the Human Development Index;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to give better care to senior citizens?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Human Development Index (HDI) is prepared by United Nations Development Programme and the indicator 'end-of-life-care' is not used in computing the HDI.

(c) Keeping in view the recommendations made in the "National Policy on Older Persons" as well as the State`s obligation under the ``Maintenance & Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act 2007``, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has formulated a `National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly` (NPHCE) during the 11th Plan period to address various health related problems of elderly people. Main objective of the Programme is to provide preventive, curative and rehabilitative services to the elderly persons at various level of health care delivery system of the country. Other objectives are to strengthen referral system, develop specialized manpower and to promote research in the field of diseases relating to old age.

Major components of the NPHCE Programme are, establishment of 30 bedded department of Geriatrics in 8 identified Regional Medical Institutes in different regions of the country, providing dedicated health care facilities in District hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Sub Centres in 100 identified districts covering 21 states of the country.