

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6182  
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013  
MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has given due recognition to Anthropology while preparing health policies in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop medical Anthropology as a discipline in order to understand the diseases within the overall domain of ecology and health in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The National Health Policy (NHP) was formulated in 2002 to provide prophylactic and curative health care services towards building a healthy nation. The NHP-2002 aims to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country. This is sought to be done by increasing access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas, and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing areas and institutions. The Policy sought to give an overriding importance to ensure a more equitable access to health services across the social and geographical expanse of the country. Thus, keeping in line with this broad objective, several health programmes/ schemes have been launched from time to time.

(c): Medical Council of India, the statutory body responsible for maintaining high standards in medical education, has informed that the Council has not developed Medical Anthropology as a discipline at undergraduate/ postgraduate level. However study of a disease includes the study of its etiology, which inter-alia covers the anthropological aspects.