

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1774

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013

MENTAL DISORDERS

Pal Shri Jagdambika;Singh Shri Bhupendra ;Sugumar Shri K. ;Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the number of patients with mental disorders is on the rise in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the activities undertaken, mental hospitals, colleges and institutes upgraded and funds earmarked and allocated under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to restructure NMHP to improve upon the situation and launch it in the so far unserved areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made to increase the number of mental healthcare professionals, hospitals and institutes in the country; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government for a separate legislative measure for mental healthcare and provision for insurance facilities of mentally ill patients in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : In 2005, the National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, reported that 10-20 million (1-2% of population) suffered from severe mental disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and nearly 50 million (5% of population) from common mental disorders such as depression and anxiety, yielding an overall estimate of 6.5 per cent of the population. At present, these estimates are nearer to 3% and 10%. The details of funds released under various schemes of National Mental Health Programme during the last three years and the current year is annexed.

(c) & (d) : To address the huge burden of mental disorders, the Government of India introduced the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country since 1982. A total of 123 districts in 30 States/ UTs have been covered under the District Mental Health Program (DMHP) to provide detection, management and treatment of mental disorders/ illness. It has also been decided to expand the DMHP to the unserved areas of the country in a phased manner. With the objective to address the shortage of mental health professionals in the country, 11 Centers of Excellence in Mental Health and 27 PG training departments in mental health specialties to increase the PG training capacity in mental health as well as improving the tertiary care treatment facility have been funded. Besides, three Central Institutions viz. National Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur and Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi have been strengthened for augmenting the human resources in the area of mental health and for capacity building in the country. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the National Mental Health Programme has been restructured to include additional components like suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counseling in schools and colleges. It also provides for upgradation of Psychiatry wings of Govt. Medical Colleges/ General Hospitals, modernization of State run Mental Hospitals, support for Central/ State Mental Health Authorities, Research and Training and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.

Further, health being a State subject, the establishment of new mental health hospitals and institutes in the districts/ areas not covered is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

(e) The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to replace the Mental Health Act, 1987, with a new legislation i.e. the Mental Health Care Bill, 2013. The new legislation proposes to make provisions for protection of the following rights of persons with mental illness:

1. Right to access mental health care.
2. Right to community living.
3. Right to protection from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
4. Right to equality and non-discrimination.
5. Right to information.

6. Right to confidentiality.
7. Restriction on release of information in respect to mental illness.
8. Right to access medical records.
9. Right to personal contacts and communication.
10. Right to legal aid.
11. Right to make complaints about deficiencies in provision of services.