

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4127
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD APRIL, 2018**

PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESSES

4127. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the threat of psychiatric diseases is rising rapidly due to smoking;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to take certain steps for the prevention of the same; and
- (c) if so, by when and details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): Studies have shown that early life exposure to smoking has been demonstrated to be associated with enhanced anxiety response in later life. Studies also demonstrate association between chronic smoking and psychotic illnesses and that tobacco smokers are likely to develop anxiety disorders and depression over a period of time. Some studies also suggest that patients already taking antidepressants or antipsychotic drugs for anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, etc need higher doses of these medicines as compared to non-smokers. Quitting smoking helps in boosting mental health and well being, improve mood and help relieve stress, anxiety and depression.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003) to discourage the consumption of tobacco products in order to protect the masses from the health hazards attributable to tobacco use. Further, the Government is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under NMHP in 517 districts of the country for detection, management and treatment of mental disorders/ illness. The DMHP has been restructured to include additional components like suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counseling in schools and colleges. Support is also provided for Central/ State Mental Health Authorities, Research and Training and for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.