

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 804
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018**

DOWN SYNDROME

804. SHRI DHARAM VIRA:

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

- (a) whether it is true that India has the highest number of people with Down Syndrome in the world and if so, the details, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the cases of such genetic disorder and make available the information in public domain, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) whether the Government has proposed any new legislation on Down Syndrome in the 12th World Down Syndrome Congress in the year 2015 and if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a): No scientific study or survey has been carried out by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the issue and as such there is no central database of people affected with Down Syndrome.
- (b): The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which came into force w.e.f. 19/04/2017. Down Syndrome is covered under the RPwD Act, 2016 as an intellectual disability which has been recognized as a specified disability in the Act. The Act focuses on promoting health care and prevention of occurrence of disability. It mandates the Government and Local Authorities to take measures and make schemes and programmes in this regard which inter alia include undertaking survey/ research concerning cause of occurrence of disability, promoting various methods for preventing disabilities, measures for pre-natal and peri-natal and post-natal care of mother and child, creating awareness on causes of disability and preventing disabilities etc.
- (c): As informed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, there is no proposal under consideration for bringing any new legislation on Down Syndrome.