

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2051  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019  
PREVALENCE OF AUTISM**

**2051. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:**

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

- (a) whether the prevalence of Autism and other similar neurological conditions is rising in children in India, if so, the reaction of the Government thereof;
- (b) whether there is any official census conducted or data gathered in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to collect field data on the prevalence of these diseases and to extend speciality health facilities to these children and to set up dedicated institutes to pursue on research with enhanced focus to prevent and cure these neurological diseases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (e): As per the National Mental Health Survey, 2016 conducted by NIMHANS, the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the age group of 13-17 years is 1.6%. The prevalence of other common disorders in the age group of 13-17 years is as under:

- i. Depressive Episode & Recurrent Depressive Disorder - 2.6%
- ii. Agoraphobia - 2.3%
- iii. Intellectual Disability - 1.7%
- iv. Phobic anxiety disorder - 1.3%
- v. Psychotic disorder - 1.3%

Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services cover 30 selected health conditions including, inter-alia, ASD for its screening, early detection and free management. All pre-school children below 6 years of age are screened by mobile block health teams for the selected conditions at the Anganwadi Centres. Children suspected to be suffering from developmental delays are referred to District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC) for further management. A team consisting of Pediatrician, Medical Officer, Staff Nurses, Paramedics, etc. provide services for providing follow-up referral support, treatment and management of such health conditions. Further, with a view to address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) in 655 districts of the country for detection, management and treatment of mental disorders/illnesses with the components of counselling in schools and colleges, work place stress management, life skills training, suicide prevention services and IEC activities for generation of awareness and removal of stigma associated with Mental Illnesses. Mental Healthcare facilities are also being provided through 41 State Government Mental Health Institutions and 3 Central Government Mental Health Institutions besides Psychiatry Departments in other Medical Colleges.