

The UNICEF Report further indicated that there were 1686 villages/habitations in the State of Madhya Pradesh having excess fluoride in the drinking water.

Recruitment of Psychiatrists

551. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately six crore people in our country are suffering from one mental ailment or the other and only limited psychiatrists are there in the country for the treatment of these diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to recruit more psychiatrists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) It is estimated that 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorders such as depression, neurotics, stress related and adjustment disorders. About 1% of the population suffers from serious mental disorders such as psychotic disorders and 0.5% of the population may be in need of active treatment for serious mental disorders. There are over 3000 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country.

The efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health delivery system. For this purpose under the National Mental Health Programme, the General Duty Medical Officers are given short-term training in the field of psychiatry for handling cases of mental illness.

AIDS control through awareness

552. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over five million of our people were HIV

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.