

(c) As per Section 2(s) of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, mental illness has been defined as a substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgement, behaviour, capacity to recognize reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life, mental conditions associated with the abuse of alcohol and drugs, but does not include mental retardation which is a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person, specially characterised by subnormality of intelligence.

(d) To address the challenge of mental illnesses, the Government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country since 1982. Under NMHP, implementation of the District Mental Health Programme has been approved for 655 districts of the country. Focus of the programme is on community awareness, prevention, health promotion and mental healthcare through augmenting institutional capacity in terms of infrastructure, equipment and human resource for mental healthcare.

Besides, as per available information, there are 41 Mental Health Hospitals run by State Governments and Union Territories that provide mental healthcare services in the country. Central Government is also running 3 Mental Health Institutions, viz. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi and Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam. With a view to further increase mental healthcare facilities in the country, Department of Psychiatry has been set up in each of the 6 newly established All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and similar provision has been made in the upcoming 15 new AIIMS. Similarly, many other Central as well as State Government hospitals also have Psychiatry Departments. The Government is also implementing a Manpower Development Scheme under NMHP to increase the availability of trained manpower in mental health specialities.

Illegal sale of GM foods

2477. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of labelled genetically modified (GM) foods being sold illegally in India;

(b) if so, action taken by Government on the matter and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is aware of any reports or studies that indicate the availability of GM foods in the Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has informed that they had received a communication from Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) dated 26.07.2018 informing about the results of studies conducted by CSE on processed foods for presence of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). In this connection, MoEFCC has further informed CSE that following the setting up of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2006, considering that Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 covers activities related to GM Foods, a notification was issued under Rules 1989 in 2007 exempting GM processed food, ingredients, additives and processing aids from the purview of Rule 11 of the Rules, 1989.

Four laboratories (namely Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Plant Generic Resources, New Delhi; Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Mohali; Export Inspection Agency, Kochi, Guntur) have been strengthened by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to detect the presence or absence of GMOs, and have been notified as National Referral Facilities by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare under Seed Act, 1966.

Further, report of labeled Genetically Modified (GM) food being sold in India came to the notice of FSSAI through a survey report titled 'qPCR-based Detection of Genetically Modified Processed Foods in India' by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). On receipt of survey report, FSSAI issued notices in the month of August, 2018 to the concerned Food Business Operators to provide their comments on the findings of the said report. In response to the notices, such Food Business Operators replied that their products did not contain any GM ingredients and supported their claim with National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited lab reports.