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Cover mental illness under life insurance: Anand Sharma

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS
16/9/20

Amid an "exponential growth" of mental health issues during Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, Congress' Rajya Sabha Deputy Leader Anand Sharma on Tuesday asked the government to put mental illness under the ambit of life insurance, as it will help people to see it with the same lens as that of physical diseases.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Sharma said one in seven persons in the country are suffering from depression and the number of people affected by mental disorders and issues have risen during the pandemic and lockdown in the recent months.

Students and children are increasingly suffering from mental disorders and many of them were not able to access online study, non-availability of midday meals and fear of getting affected by Covid-19.

"The first and foremost reason is the lack of awareness and sensitivity among people. People suffering from mental disorders suffer from stigma. A kind of mental disorders or illness should be treated as a physical

COVID-19 Tracker

States/UT	Active	Infected	Death	Daily cases	Daily deaths
Maharashtra	2,91,797	10,97,856	30,409	20,482	515
Karnataka	98,536	4,75,265	7,481	7,576	97
Andhra Pradesh	92,353	5,83,925	5,041	8,846	69
Uttar Pradesh	67,335	3,24,036	4,604	6,841	113
Tamil Nadu	46,806	5,14,208	8,502	5,697	68
Telangana	30,400	1,60,571	984	2,058	10
Chhattisgarh	33,645	67,327	573	0	0
Odisha	32,214	1,58,650	645	3,645	8
Assam	31,029	1,46,575	492	2,409	10
Kerala	31,222	1,14,033	466	3,215	12
Others	2,40,258	13,69,818	22,807	23,995	333

9,95,595
TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

39,34,216
TOTAL RECOVERED

50,12,264
TOTAL INFECTED

82,004
TOTAL DEATHS

DHNS/PTI (10 PM, September 15)
*Patients dead due to non-Covid reasons

ical diseases. Both the Centre and state governments need to evolve innovative modes to deepen penetration of services and set up helplines and counselling centres across the country, he added. Samajwadi Party leader in Rajya Sabha Ramgopal Vaidya also raised the issue of people committing suicide due to stress.

He demanded that mental disorders should be "mandatorily" put under the ambit of life insurance and this will help people to see mental illness in the same lens as they see physical

