

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1534
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2022**

MENTAL HEALTH AMONG STUDENTS

1534. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO:

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

- (a) the number of registered psychiatrists and mental health nurses practising in the country;
- (b) the number of psychiatrists completing their professional courses each year in the country;
and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to increase the mental health infrastructure in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

- (a) As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on June, 2022. The data regarding number of registered psychiatrists and mental health nurses practicing in the country is not maintained centrally.
- (b) The data regarding number of psychiatrists completing their professional courses each year in the country is not maintained centrally.
- (c) With a view to augment the availability of qualified manpower in field of mental health, the Government, under National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), implements manpower development schemes for establishment of Centres of Excellence and strengthening/ establishment of Post Graduate (PG) Departments in mental health specialties. Support has been provided for establishment of 25 Centres of Excellence and strengthening/ establishment of 47 Post Graduate (PG) Departments in mental health specialties in the country.

Besides the above, the Government has launched a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” on 10th October, 2022, to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country. A total of 51 State/UT Tele MANAS cells are sanctioned based on population of the State/UT, following a norm of 1 state cell for every 5-crore population. These cells have been demarcated into two categories based on the population of the state. Category 1 includes larger Tele MANAS cells established for States/UTs with population \geq 20 Lakh; and Category 2 encompasses smaller Tele MANAS cells in states with a population $<$ 20 lakh. The details of State Tele MANAS Cells sanctioned is at Annexure-I. As on 14th December, 2022, 36 Tele MANAS Cells are functional in 24 States/UTs.

The Government also augments the availability of manpower to deliver mental healthcare services in the underserved areas of the country by providing online training courses to various categories of general healthcare medical and para medical professionals through the Digital Academies established at the three Central Mental Health Institutes namely National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam, and Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi.

Under the PMJAY health assurance scheme, persons with mental illnesses are eligible for free treatment. Mental health has also been included in the 12 packages of Comprehensive Primary Health Care Packages under the AYUSHMAN BHARAT Health and Wellness Centers Scheme. As part of this, the Community Health Officers are trained to provide basic follow-up and counselling services for those with mental ailments at their doorsteps.

The number of Under Graduate (UG) seats and Post Graduate (PG) seats have increased by 87% and 105% respectively since 2014. Further, the Government has also taken the following steps to increase the availability of doctors in the country, particularly in underserved regions:

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/ referral hospital under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved and 72 are already functional.

- ii. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- iii. Central Sector Scheme for upgradation of Government Medical Colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks. A total of 75 projects have been approved and 55 have been completed.
- iv. Under Central Sector Scheme for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved. Undergraduate courses have started in 19 AIIMS.
- v. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- vi. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- vii. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years.
- viii. The tenure of Senior Residency for appointment of Assistant Professor have reduced from three years to one year.
- ix. Under the District Residency Programme (DRP), all the doctors admitted to PG courses from 2022 onwards, to serve in the district hospitals for three months mandatorily.

Annexure-I

Sl. No.	States	No. of sanctioned Tele Manas Cells
1	Andhra Pradesh	2
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1*
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1*
4	Assam	1
5	Bihar	3
6	Chhattisgarh	1
7	Chandigarh	1*
8	Daman & Diu, Dadra and N Haveli	1*
9	Delhi	1
10	Gujarat	2
11	Goa	1*
12	Haryana	1
13	Himachal Pradesh	1
14	J & K	1
15	Jharkhand	1
16	Karnataka	2
17	Kerala	1
18	Ladakh	1*
19	Lakshadweep	1*
20	Madhya Pradesh	2
21	Manipur	1
22	Maharashtra	3
23	Meghalaya	1
24	Mizoram	1*
25	Nagaland	1
26	Odisha	2
27	Puducherry	1*
28	Punjab	1
29	Rajasthan	2
30	Sikkim	1*
31	Tamil Nadu	2
32	Telangana	1
33	Tripura	1
34	Uttar Pradesh	4
35	Uttarakhand	1
36	West Bengal	2
TOTAL		51 Cells

*Ten states/ UTs with population less than 20 lakh will have a smaller cell comprising of appropriate strength of Consultants, Counselors, DEOs and Attendants.