

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1367
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST AUGUST, 2023**

SCREENING OF MENTAL HEALTH OF PRISONERS

1367. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to incorporate mental health screening as a part of regular medical screening for prisoners;
- (b) if so, the measures being undertaken by Government to establish a framework for screening the mental health of prisoners;
- (c) the number of deaths that have occurred within prison facilities over the past three years;
- (d) if so, the total number of deaths attributed to suicides in jails within each State over the past three years; and
- (e) whether Government is contemplating the provision of psychological healthcare to prisoners based on their individual needs and requirements?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

- (a) to (e) As per information received from Ministry of Home Affairs, 'Prisons' and 'Persons detained therein' are "State-List" subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this regard. MHA has also issued an advisory vide their letter dated 24.6.2021 to all States and UTs on addressing mental health issues of inmates and staff in Prisons and correction facilities. This includes two handbooks titled 'Dealing with Mental Health Issues in Prisoners during COVID-19: A HANDBOOK' and 'Dealing with Mental Health Issues in Prison Staff during COVID-19: A HANDBOOK.' The Handbooks are forwarded to all State Prison authorities, who may disseminate the guidance contained therein to all Prisons in the States and UTs.

As per information provided by NCRB, the total number of deaths in prison and total no. of deaths by suicide that have occurred within prison facilities over the past three years is as follows:

Year	Total No. of Deaths in Prisons	No. of Deaths by Suicide
2019	1,764	112
2020	1,887	156
2021	2,116	150

The list of number of deaths attributed to suicides in jails over the past three years, State-wise, is at Annexure.

Annexure**State/UT-wise Number of Suicide by Prison Inmates during the year 2019-2021**

Sl. No.	State/UT	2019	2020	2021
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	3	7	5
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0
3	ASSAM	2	0	2
4	BIHAR	4	4	1
5	CHHATTISGARH	2	2	4
6	GOA	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	6	11	7
8	HARYANA	7	11	14
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0
10	JHARKHAND	3	3	4
11	KARNATAKA	7	3	6
12	KERALA	1	8	10
13	MADHYA PRADESH	3	10	10
14	MAHARASHTRA	4	7	7
15	MANIPUR	0	1	0
16	MEGHALAYA	1	1	2
17	MIZORAM	0	0	1
18	NAGALAND	1	0	0
19	ODISHA	4	8	4
20	PUNJAB	13	5	5
21	RAJASTHAN	6	3	5
22	SIKKIM	0	1	1
23	TAMIL NADU	4	8	4
24	TELANGANA	5	3	3
25	TRIPURA	0	2	0
26	UTTAR PRADESH	20	28	34
27	UTTARAKHAND	1	2	0
28	WEST BENGAL	7	17	10
	TOTAL (STATES)	104	145	139
29	A & N ISLANDS	0	0	1
30	CHANDIGARH	0	1	0
31	DNH & DAMAN DIU+	0	0	0
32	DELHI	8	10	8
33	JAMMU & KASHMIR*	0	0	2

34	LADAKH	-	0	0
35	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0
36	PUDUCHERRY	0	0	0
	TOTAL (UTs)	8	11	11
	TOTAL (ALL-INDIA)	112	156	150

● As per data provided by States/UTs.

"+' combined data of erstwhile D & N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT for 2019.

"*" data of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh for 2019.

'Source: Prison Statistics India