

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2188
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH AUGUST, 2023**

SUICIDE AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS

2188. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether Government has the data of medical students who have died of suicide in the country in the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for these suicides;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent suicide incidents among medical students;
- (d) whether Government has set up any mechanism/platform to help medical students having suicidal thoughts in public and private universities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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 National Crime Records Bureau, the data of medical students who have died of suicide and the reasons are not maintained centrally. However the number of suicides committed by students during 2017 to 2021 is as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of suicides committed by students	9905	10159	10335	12526	13089

As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), the Under Graduate Medical Education Board has implemented new competency based medical education for MBBS students wherein Yoga course has been introduced during foundation course to alleviate the stress and depression of MBBS students.

The Government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 738 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. Facilities made under DMHP at the Community Health Centre(CHC) and Primary Health Centre(PHC) levels, include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc. In addition to above services there is a provision of 10 bedded in-patient facility at the District level.

Under the tertiary care component of NMHP, 25 Centres of Excellence have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialities as well as to provide tertiary level treatment facilities. Further, the Government has also supported 19 Government medical colleges/institutions to strengthen 47 PG Departments in mental health specialities. Mental Health Services are also provisioned for 22 AIIMS. These services are also available under PMJAY.

In addition to the above, Mental health services have been added in the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care under Ayushman Bharat – HWC Scheme. Operational guidelines on Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use Disorders (MNS) at Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) have been released under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat.

To generate awareness among masses about mental illnesses Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are an integral part of the NMHP. At the District level, sufficient funds are provided to each District under the DMHP under the Non-communicable Diseases flexi-pool of National Health Mission for IEC and awareness generation activities in the community, schools, workplaces, with community involvement. Under the DMHP various IEC activities such as awareness messages in local newspapers and radio, street plays, wall paintings etc. are undertaken by the States/UTs.

Besides the above, the Government has launched a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” (NTMHP) on 10th October, 2022, to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country. As on 18.07.2023, 31 States/ UTs have set up 42 Tele MANAS Cells and have started tele mental health services. More than 1,94,000 calls have been handled on the helpline number.

Further, Department of Higher Education has been asked for wide publicity of NTMHP / Tele MANAS in the educational institutes under their Department and share the helpline number among the students to access the helpline during stressful and challenging times. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has also requested all States/UTs for wide circulation and publicity of Tele MANAS in respective States/UTs especially among students in educational institutions. All Institutes of National Importance, AIIMS and Central Government Medical Colleges have also been requested to publicize Tele MANAS among students to access the helpline at any time for free and confidential support.
