

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 937
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2024**

INCREASING SUICIDES IN THE COUNTRY

937. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that more than 13,000 students committed suicide in the year 2022;
- (b) whether Government proposes to enumerate the year-wise number of children who committed suicide in the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has examined the reasons for such incidents, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to address the issue?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (e) National Crime record Bureau has informed that there were 13044 student suicide cases in the year 2022.

The reasons behind suicide vary by age, gender and educational and economic status. Suicide is not a single faceted phenomenon. The mental burden that results in suicide is often caused by multiple psychosocial factors. The major reasons for suicide among students are family problems, illness, failure in examinations and other causes.

To address the burden of mental health issues, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) is implemented under the National Mental Health Programme in 767 districts of the country to detect, manage and treat mental illness with the major components of counselling in schools and colleges, work place stress

management, life skills training, suicide prevention services and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for generation of awareness and removal of stigma associated with Mental Illness.

- (ii) Under the tertiary care component of National Mental Health Programme, 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.
- (iii) 19 Government medical colleges/institutions have been supported to strengthen 47 PG Departments in mental health specialties. Mental Health Services are also provisioned for 22 All India Institute Of Medical Science (AIIMS). These services are also available under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- (iv) Ayushman Bharat School Health & Wellness Programme incorporates “Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health” as a dedicated module. Health and Wellness Ambassadors (Teachers) are trained on mental health along with other thematic areas of the programme to support and provide awareness to school children on mental health and well-being.
- (v) More than 1.73 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and Urban Health & Wellness Centres (UHCs) have been upgraded to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Mental health services have been added in the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.
- (vi) The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through its interventions viz. Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHC), Peer Education Programme and Adolescent Health and Wellness Days (AH&WD) creates awareness on mental health issues and provides counselling services with active participation of critical stakeholders viz. parents, village elders, teachers, healthcare providers and the adolescents themselves.
- (vii) The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, 2022 provides a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in India.
- (viii) A “National Tele Mental Health Programme” has been launched on 10th October, 2022, to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country. As on 23.07.2024, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele MANAS Cells. More than 11,76,000 calls have been handled on the helpline number.

- (ix) Under the aegis of the School Health Programme under Ayushman Bharat, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed a comprehensive package titled “Training and Resource Material: Health and Wellness of School-going Children”. A specific module has been included on “Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health”.
- (x) Ministry of Education (MoE), has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being . All activities undertaken under the Manodarpan initiative are aimed towards supporting the mental health and well-being of students from schools, colleges and universities, including those students who are preparing for competitive examinations.
- (xi) NCERT has started ‘NCERT Counselling Services for School Children’ in April, 2020 to help school students across the country share their concerns. This service is provided free of charge by about 270 counsellors across different regions of the country. Live interactive sessions on ‘SAHYOG: Guidance for Mental Wellbeing of Children’ are telecast on 12 PM eVidya DTH-TV channels for classes 1 to 12. To handle stress and anxiety, recorded videos on Yoga are telecast through 12 DTH TV channels with effect from 1st September, 2020 from Classes 1 to 12 and also digital resources are made available in digital platforms, i.e., DIKSHA.
- (xii) NCERT has developed and launched National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE). Both the NCFs integrate the mental well-being of students.
- (xiii) University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student’s Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well- being at Higher Education Institution (HEIs) on 13.04.2023, which provides for promoting physical fitness and sports activities for students; creating safeguards against academic pressure, peer pressure, behavioral issues, stress, career concerns, depression and other issues on the mental health of students; to teach positive thinking & emotions in the student community; and to promote a positive and supportive network for students.
- (xiv) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) provides pre and post examination tele-counselling facilities through centralized toll-free helpline.
