

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2517
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2024**

KIRAN HELPLINE IN RURAL AREAS

2517. SMT PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) the measures taken by the Ministry to increase awareness regarding the KIRAN Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline amongst the citizens of the country, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) the number of calls received from urban and rural regions in Maharashtra since 2023, district-wise;
- (c) whether Government has conducted an assessment on the shortage of accessible mental health professionals and facilities in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to address this shortage?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per information received from Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Kiran - Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline (MHRH) was launched on 07.09.2020 to provide support to callers for mental wellbeing and other psychological conditions. In 2023, National Institutes under DEPwD conducted 10 webinars.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has launched a “National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS)” on 10th October, 2022, to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country.

Kiran - MHRH was merged with Tele-MANAS under MoHFW on 15.02.2024 with an aim to increase public awareness and to streamline mental health services under a single platform. After the merger, initially calls to Kiran helpline were redirected to Tele-MANAS to ensure a smooth transition and subsequently Kiran Helpline was phased out.

(b) The number of calls handled in the State of Maharashtra since 2023, district-wise on the Tele-MANAS helpline is at Annexure.

(c) & (d) There are 47 Government run mental hospitals in the country, including 3 Central Mental Health Institutions, viz. 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. Mental Health Services are also provisioned in all AIIMS. These services are also available under PMJAY.

As per the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) 2016, conducted by the NIMHANS, Bengaluru in 12 States of the country, the availability of Psychiatrists in the NMHS states varied from 0.05 per lakh population in Madhya Pradesh to 1.2 per lakh population in Kerala.

The government has increased number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats. There is an increase of 102% in Medical Colleges from 387 before 2014 to 780 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 130% in MBBS seats from 51,348 before 2014 to 1,18,137 as of now and increase of 135% in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 73,157 as of now.

For increasing the number of psychiatrists in the Country, Post Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB) of National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued the Minimum Standard of Requirements for Post-Graduate Courses - 2023 (PGMSR-2023) on 15.1.2024. For starting/increase of seats in MD (Psychiatry), the number of OPD has been brought down to 30 per day for annual intake of maximum 2 PG students with 20% increase for each additional seat. Similarly, the minimum beds required per unit for starting MD (Psychiatry) course with 2 seats, 3 seats and 5 seats in a medical college is 8 beds, 12 beds and 20 beds respectively.

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.

Further, the Government of India 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 767 districts for which support is provided to

States/UTs through the National Health Mission. One of the components of DMHP is to provide training to specialist and non- specialist cadres such as Medical Officers, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Nurses.

The Government is also taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at primary healthcare level. The Government has upgraded more than 1.73 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Mental health services have been added in the packages of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Operational guidelines and training manuals for various cadres on Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use Disorders (MNS) at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been released under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat.

The Government is also augmenting 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 since 2018, 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. The total number of professionals trained under Digital Academies are 42,488.

As on 22.11.2024, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele MANAS Cells and have started tele mental health services. More than 15,95,000 calls have been handled on the helpline number.

The Government has also launched Tele MANAS Mobile Application on the occasion of World Mental Health Day - October 10, 2024. Tele-MANAS Mobile Application is a comprehensive mobile platform that has been developed to provide support for mental health issues ranging from well being to mental disorders.

Annexure**Number of calls handled in the State of Maharashtra since 2023, district-wise
on Tele-MANAS**

Name of the District	Number of calls received
Kolhapur	7445
Pune	5607
Sangli	5266
Mumbai	4515
Aurangabad	2861
Beed	2645
Nagpur	2081
Osmanabad	2025
Nashik	1997
Ahmednagar	1758
Jalgaon	1667
Jalna	1642
Satara	1609
Akola	1347
Thane	1277
Buldhana	1212
Washim	1132
Chandrapur	1093
Ratnagiri	1054
Nanded	1046
Amravati	973
Solapur	926
Latur	888

Hingoli	834
Dhule	784
Yavatmal	784
Sindhudurg	783
Bhandara	780
Gondia	771
Wardha	698
Parbhani	654
Palghar	625
Nandurbar	595
Gadchiroli	577
Mumbai Suburban	450
Raigad	447
Total	60848