

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 906
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03RD DECEMBER, 2024**

SUICIDES OF MEDICAL INTERNS

906. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:

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

- (a) the number of Medical interns who have committed suicides in Government run hospitals in the country during the last five years;
- (b) the preventive measures initiated so far, to combat this growing problem; and
- (c) the details thereof?

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

(a) The data of Medical interns who have committed suicides in Government run hospitals in the country is not maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) To address mental health challenges and promote student well-being, the following preventive measures have been implemented by NMC:

- i. A 15-Member National Task Force was constituted by the Anti-Ragging committee of the National Medical Commission (NMC) in February 2024 on Mental Health and Well-being of Medical Students recommended establishment of Centralized Reporting Systems, development of a robust, centralized system for reporting and monitoring suicides, promoting supportive environment, addressing systemic issues. implementation of regular training programs, among others to address mental health issues in medical students.
- ii. Aggrieved students can lodge complaints related to mental health and ragging on NMC's website as well as other portals such as Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- iii. National Medical Commission Regulations such as Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Medical College and Institutions Regulations, 2021 require Colleges to submit annual compliance report and prescribe punitive actions for offenders.

To address the burden of mental disorders, 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. Facilities made

available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre(CHC) and Primary Health Centre(PHC) levels, inter- alia, 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. The objectives of DMHP are:

- (i) to provide suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges.
- (ii) to provide mental health services including prevention, promotion and long-term continuing care at different levels of district healthcare delivery system.
- (iii) to augment institutional capacity in terms of infrastructure, equipment and human resource for mental healthcare.
- (iv) to promote community awareness and participation in the delivery of mental healthcare services.

In addition to the above, 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 package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Operational guidelines on Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use Disorders (MNS) at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been released under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat.

The Government has also released the National Suicide Prevention Strategy in November, 2022. The Strategy is available on the website of this Ministry (<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/National%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Strategy.pdf>).

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. 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.

Further, D/o Higher Education has also been requested 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. All States/UTs have also been requested for wide circulation and publicity of NTMHP / Tele MANAS in the 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.
