

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2821
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2025**

SUICIDE CASES OF MEDICAL STUDENTS

2821. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has maintained any data on the number of medical interns who have died by suicide in Government hospitals over the past five years;
- (b) if not, the measures being taken to establish a centralized reporting system for such critical mental health issues;
- (c) whether any initiatives have been implemented to address the mental health and wellbeing of medical students and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry plans to improve data collection on critical health issues affecting medical professionals; and
- (e) whether the lack of data is hindering effective policy-making in the health sector?

ANSWER

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

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

To address mental health challenges and promote student well-being, the following initiatives have been implemented by NMC:

- i. Yoga module of 10 days has been made mandatory for all students wherein faculty are also requested to join. These will precede the International Yoga day on 21st June. The students will be doing Yoga for 1 hour daily as per module designed by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- ii. Yoga has also been introduced in the induction course at the beginning of 1st MBBS.
- iii. Family adoption program through village outreach will make students more mature and empathetic towards rural populace alleviating depression and preventing ragging.
- iv. The Anti-Ragging cell of NMC handles all issues of medical students and addresses faculty and authorities of all colleges including their Anti-Ragging Cell.

- v. Colleges have been asked to monitor mentor-mentee program wherein a mentor may be selected from the level of Professor/HOD to Assistant Professor, who hand holds small groups of students to help them and prevent mental harassment.

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 19.03.2025, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele MANAS Cells and have started tele mental health services. More than 19,67,000 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.

UGC has issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student's Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well- being at HEIs which provides for promoting physical fitness and sports activities for students; creating safeguards against academic pressure, peer pressure, behavioural 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.
