

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3563
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025

Progress of implementation of NSPS

3563 # Shri Tejveer Singh:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS) and the manner in which Government is tracking progress towards the goal of reducing the suicide mortality rate by 10 per cent by 2030;
- (b) whether any independent review or assessment has been done to evaluate the impact of NSPS so far, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the specific budgetary allocations made for the NSPS and the amount utilized for mental health programs in educational institutions during the year 2024-2025?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(M/o HFW) has released the National Suicide Prevention Strategy in November, 2022. The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention provides a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in India. This national strategy aims to reduce suicide mortality by 10% in the country by 2030. The national strategy includes an action framework with proposed actions with key stakeholders, implementation framework and mechanism, thus providing a path forward for preventing suicides. The Strategy is available on the website of the M/o HFW (<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/National%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Strategy.pdf>).

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.

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 1.75 lakh SHCs, PHCs, UPHCs and UHWCs 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.

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. The training focuses on identifying self-emotions signs of distress in self and others and recognizing that ‘mental health and well-being’ exists along a continuum. Health and Wellness Ambassadors take interactive sessions with the students and percolate the messages through weekly sessions promoting joyful learning.

Besides the above, the “National Tele Mental Health Programme” was launched on 10th October, 2022, to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country. As on date, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS) Cells and more than 19.90 lakh calls have been handled on the helpline number till date.

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.

The budget allocated for mental health services under the Ministry of HFW, including allocation for National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Tezpur, Assam and Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi, during the last four years is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Total Allocation for Mental Health (Rs. in Crore)
1	2020-21	713.01
2	2021-22	846.17
3	2022-23	1070.72
4	2023-24	1196.75

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.
