

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 267
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2025**

SHORTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN THE COUNTRY

267. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

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

- (a) the current status of availability of psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychiatric social workers, and psychiatric nurses vis-à-vis WHO norms, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of Government medical institutions offering Post Graduate (PG) programs in psychiatry, clinical psychology, psychiatric nursing, and social work, along with their annual intake;
- (c) the progress made in bridging gaps identified in the 2017 National Survey of Mental Health Resources;
- (d) the status and impact assessment of Centre of Excellence (CoE) and PG departments supported under National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), including their current functioning status and regional distribution; and
- (e) whether the Ministry plans to scale up human resource capacity in Tier-II and rural regions, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) The data regarding number of psychologists, psychiatrists and counsellors in the country at present is not maintained centrally. As per NMC website, approximately 1300 MD psychiatry seats are available in the country in various medical colleges. As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,86,150 registered allopathic doctors. Psychiatry now has been made a compulsory subject with a dedicated question paper in MBBS. The curriculum is now competency based. The numbers of hours of psychiatry teaching and clinical postings is increased, marks for psychiatry have been increased and the psychiatry internship is made mandatory.

As per information received from Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), 4309 Clinical Psychologists and 801 Rehabilitation Social Workers are registered in Central Rehabilitation Register of RCI.

Further, 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.

As per the WHO Mental Health Atlas 2020, the global averages of availability per 1,00,000 population is 1.7 psychiatrists, 0.7 clinical psychologists, 0.7 psychiatric social workers and 3.8 psychiatric nurses **The National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) 2015–16**, provided state-level estimates of mental health human resources per 100,000 population covering **12 states** is given at Annexure-I.

The government has increased number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats. There is an increase of 101.5% 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 1,18,190 as of now and increase of 138.3% in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 74,306 as on 31.03.2025.

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.

As per information received from Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), at present, 66 institutions/universities are offering M.Phil Clinical Psychology course. The Council has launched B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.) course from the academic session 2024- 25 and granted approval to 19 universities to offer this course for developing more professionals in clinical psychology.

Under the tertiary care component of NMHP, under Manpower Development Scheme-A, 25 Centres of Excellence have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialties 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 specialties under Manpower Development Scheme-B. The number of Mental Health OPD services including teleconsultations provided by COE's / Dept. of Psychiatry under NMHP in the FY 2024-25 are 25,24,758.

The number of Centre of Excellence (CoE) and Institutes have started the Post-Graduate courses under Manpower Development Scheme (MDS), is as follows:

Academic sessions started under following PG courses	No. of CoEs (MDS-A)	No. of Institutes (MDS-B)	Total No. of Institutes/Colleges under Scheme
Psychiatry	13	9	22
Clinical Psychology	11	2	13
Psychiatric Social Work	12	1	13
Psychiatric Nursing	10	5	15

The regional distribution of Institutes / Medical Colleges approved under NMHP are as follows:

Sr. No.	Regions of India	Number of Institutes/Medical Colleges		
		Manpower Development Scheme A	Manpower Development Scheme B	Total
1	East	3	2	5
2	West	5	8	13
3	Central	2	1	3
4	North	10	4	14
5	South	5	4	9
Total		25	19	44

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.

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 48,629.

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. 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 Government is also taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at primary healthcare level. The Government has upgraded more than 1.77 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.

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 17.07.2025, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele MANAS Cells. Tele-MANAS services are available in 20 languages based on language opted by States. More than 23,82,000 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.

The Government has also launched the video consultation facility under Tele-MANAS, as another upgrade to the already existing audio calling facility.

Annexure-I**Statement showing State-level estimation of mental Health Human Resources
per 100,000 population**

	AS	CG	GJ	JH	KL	MP	MN	PB	RJ	TN	UP	WB
Psychiatrists	92 (0.29)	37 (0.14)	318 (0.53)	103 (0.31)	400 (1.20)	37 (0.05)	16 (0.56)	127 (0.46)	68 (0.10)	214 (0.30)	297 (0.15)	506 (0.55)
Medical doctors trained in mental health	100 (0.32)	21 (0.08)	242 (0.40)	--	917 (2.75)	39 (0.05)	278 (9.73)	380 (1.37)	398 (0.58)	1334 (1.85)	220 (0.11)	2500 (2.74)
Clinical Psychologists*	20 (0.06)	17 (0.07)	14 (0.02)	19 (0.06)	211 (0.63)	11 (0.02)	14 (0.49)	12 (0.04)	9 (0.01)	68 (0.09)	49 (0.02)	42 (0.05)
Nurses trained in mental health	168 (0.54)	7 (0.03)	936 (1.55)	--	818 (2.45)	33 (0.05)	215 (7.53)	3 (0.01)	6 (0.01)	7555 (10.47)	60 (0.03)	18 (0.02)
Nurses with DPN Qualifications	42 (0.13)	5 (0.02)	39 (0.06)	63 (0.19)	--	--	6 (0.21)	--	6 (0.01)	--	14 (<0.01)	12 (0.01)
Psychiatric Social Worker	22 (0.07)	22 (0.09)	58 (0.10)	8 (0.02)	15 (0.04)	7 (0.01)	19 (0.67)	32 (0.12)	6 (0.01)	37 (0.05)	44 (0.02)	110 (0.12)
Rehabilitation workers and special education tutors	193 (0.62)	235 (0.91)	685 (1.13)	18 (0.05)	3429 (10.26)	--	171 (5.99)	--	--	1911 (2.65)	--	229 (0.25)
Professional and Paraprofessional psychological counsellors	--	127 (0.50)	499 (0.83)	39 (0.12)	931 (2.79)	--	1754 (61.42)	288 (1.04)	--	1153 (1.60)	--	407 (0.45)

Note – DPN (Diploma in Psychiatric nursing: number in parenthesis indicate rate per 1,00,000 population;

* Information obtained from Indian association of clinical psychologist and other sources