

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1082
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09TH DECEMBER, 2025**

ALLOCATION OF BUDGET FOR MENTAL HEALTH

1082. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) why Government allocates less than 1 per cent of the total health budget to mental health, despite WHO recommendations to scale up funding;
- (b) the steps Government has taken to ensure that workplaces, including critical sectors like aviation, conduct mental health screenings and interventions;
- (c) the number of Government-run mental health facilities currently operational and adequately staffed across the country; and
- (d) the manner in which Government responds to criticisms that its awareness campaigns lack depth and reach in non-urban regions?

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

(a) to (d) For the current financial year (FY 2025-26), the Budget Estimate for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) is Rs. 99,859 crore. Out of which, the budget earmarked for mental health services is Rs. 1,180 crore, which is approximately 1.18% of the total MoHFW budget.

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 for all including elderly, 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.

To generate awareness among masses about mental illness, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and awareness generation activities in the community, schools, workplaces, with community involvement are an integral part of NMHP.

The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) is implemented to detect, manage and treat mental illness with the major components of counselling in schools and colleges, work place stress management, life skills training, suicide prevention services and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for generation of awareness and removal of stigma associated with Mental Illness.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation, DGCA (DGCA) has issued comprehensive guidelines to ensure the mental well-being of pilots, cabin crew, and Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) in view of the the safety-critical nature of aviation, which includes the following steps:

- i. **Mandatory Mental-Health Integration:** Mental-health evaluations have been incorporated into the routine medical examinations required for obtaining and renewing commercial licenses.
- ii. **Pre-Employment Psychological Screening:** Operators are encouraged to include psychological assessments during recruitment to ensure suitability for high-stress roles.
- iii. **Peer Support Programme (PSP):** Airlines and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are required to establish formal PSPs to foster a supportive, non-stigmatising environment where staff can voluntarily disclose concerns or seek help without fear of punitive action.
- iv. **Linkage with Safety Systems:** Aviation operators have been advised to embed mental-health promotion within their Safety Management System (SMS), ensuring confidentiality, early identification of concerns, and timely access to assistance.

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 specialties.

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 taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at primary healthcare level. The Government has upgraded more than 1.81 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 27.11.2025, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele MANAS Cells and have started tele mental health services. More than 29,82,000 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.
