

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3623  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**NATIONAL TELE-MANAS PROGRAMME**

**3623. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:**

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

- (a) the current number of functional Cells established under the National Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States Programme (Tele-MANAS) and the call volumes handled during the latest reported period;
- (b) whether the Ministry has undertaken recent enhancements to the Tele-MANAS mobile application, including multilingual assistance and emergency-response features and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to integrate Tele-MANAS services with school-health and wellness programmes in States such as Uttar Pradesh and whether any district-specific outreach initiatives are being implemented in regions like Auraiya?

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

(a) to (c) The Government has launched a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” (NTMHP) on 10th October, 2022, that functions as the digital arm of the District Mental Health Programme to provide universal access to equitable, accessible, affordable and quality mental health care through 24 x 7 tele-mental health counselling services. For this, a toll-free number (14416) has been set up across the country.

As on 03.03.2026, 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 34.34 lakh calls have been handled on the helpline number since inception.

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.

Tele-MANAS Mobile Application has been expanded to include 10 additional regional languages — Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, and Punjabi — along with the previously available languages, English and Hindi.

Tele-MANAS Mobile Application also assists visually challenged persons by making its mental health services accessible through a specially designed, user-friendly digital interface and a toll-free phone line that does not require screen use.

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

The Government has established a dedicated Tele-MANAS Cell at the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune to extend tele-mental health assistance and support to all Armed Forces service personnel and their dependents, further enhancing the mental health care services available to them.

All States/UTs have been requested for wide circulation and publicity of NTMHP / Tele MANAS in the respective States/UTs through various possible modes like print poster, electronic display, social media platforms, etc. at appropriate places including all health facilities/ educational institutions/ Hostels/ Private and Government workplaces/ Jails/ Orphanages and on Website/ Web Portal of states to ensure widespread awareness.

As the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Education have directed all concerned stakeholders to ensure wide publicity and dissemination of the Tele-MANAS application and the Tele-MANAS helpline number.

The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through its interventions viz. Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHC), Peer Education Programme and Adolescent Health and Wellness Days (AH&WD) creates awareness on mental health issues and provides counselling services. Peer Educators form groups of 15-20 boys and girls in the community and conduct weekly one to two hour participatory sessions on adolescent health including mental health and wellbeing. Under RKSK, Mental health is an integral part of the strategy and includes training of Mos, ANMs and Counsellors on issues of common adolescent mental health and management of the same.

The Manodarpan an initiative of the Ministry of Education provides psychosocial support to students, teachers and families through an online platform offering advisories, audio-visual resources and guidance on emotional well-being. Interactive sessions such as Sahyog and Paricharcha help students cope with academic stress and emotional challenges.

“Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health” is incorporated as a dedicated module under Ayushman Bharat School Health & Wellness Programme. Health and Wellness Ambassadors (Teachers) are trained on mental health along with other thematic areas of the programme, take interactive sessions with the students and percolate the messages through weekly sessions promoting joyful learning.

The Government has undertaken several public-awareness initiatives to promote the services. Over the past years, multiple large-scale campaigns have been organized, including activities under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, during which a six-month long “Swasth Mann, Swasth Tan” mental-wellbeing campaign was conducted across States/ UTs.

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