

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2654
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026**

EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

2654. SHRI VINOD SHRIDHAR TAWDE:

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

- (a) the initiatives undertaken to strengthen mental healthcare services for children, adolescents, women and other vulnerable groups;
- (b) whether community-based mental healthcare is being expanded through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs), educational institutions and workplaces and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken to augment the availability of mental healthcare professionals and build the capacity of frontline health workers; and
- (d) the steps taken to leverage Tele-MANAS, teleconsultation services and AI-enabled technologies to improve access to affordable and quality mental healthcare?

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

(a) to (d) 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 was 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.

The Government is also taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at primary healthcare level. The Government had upgraded more than 1.8 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Mental health services were

added in the packages of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

“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 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 the tertiary care component of NMHP, 25 Centres of Excellence were 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 had 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 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. The total number of professionals trained under Digital Academies are 48,629.

For increasing the number of psychiatrists in the Country, Post Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB) of National Medical Commission (NMC) had 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 was 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 had 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.

The Government of India had 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 27.07.2026, 36 States/ UTs had set up 53 Tele MANAS Cells. Tele-MANAS services are available in 20 languages based on language opted by States. More than 42 lakh calls were handled on the helpline number since inception.

The Government had 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 was developed to provide support for mental health issues ranging from well-being to mental disorders.

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