

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 661  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**MENTAL HEALTH POLICY**

**661. SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has rolled out/ proposes to roll out a Mental Health Policy to promote awareness and develop policies regarding mental health and if so, the details thereof along with the achievements made in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to include mental health under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

- (a) The Government has launched the National Mental Health Policy of India on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 to promote awareness and to develop policies regarding mental Health. However, to address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). The Government is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under NMHP in 704 districts of the country with the objectives to:
  - (i) Provide suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges.
  - (ii) Provide mental health services including prevention, promotion and long-term continuing care at different levels of district healthcare delivery system.

- (iii) Augment institutional capacity in terms of infrastructure, equipment and human resource for mental healthcare.
- (iv) Promote community awareness and participation in the delivery of mental healthcare services.

To generate awareness among masses about mental illnesses Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are an integral part of the NMHP. At the District level, funds upto Rs. 4 lakh per annum are provided to each District under the DMHP under the Non-communicable Diseases flexi-pool of National Health Mission for IEC and awareness generation activities in the community, schools, workplaces, with community involvement. Under the DMHP various IEC activities such as awareness messages in local newspapers and radio, street plays, wall paintings etc. are taken up by the States/UTs. Further, funds upto Rs. 12 lakhs per annum are provided to each district supported under DMHP for targeted interventions with the following objectives:

- (i) To provide class teachers with facilitative skill to promote life skill among their students.
- (ii) To provide the class teachers with knowledge and skills to identify emotional conduct, scholastic and substance use problems in their students
- (iii) To provide class teachers with a system of referral for students with psychological problems to the District Mental Health Team for inputs and treatment.
- (iv) To involve other stakeholders like parents, community leaders to enhance development of adolescents etc.

Besides the above, the Government has launched a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country.

(b) & (c) Govt. has already included mental health under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Under the PMJAY health assurance scheme, persons with mental illnesses are eligible for free treatment. Mental health has also been included in the 12 packages of Comprehensive Primary Health Care Packages under the AYUSHMAN BHARAT Health and Wellness Centers Scheme. As part of this, the Community Health Officers are trained to provide basic follow-up and counselling services for those with mental ailments at their doorsteps.

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