

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2919
ANSWERED ON-07/08/2023**

Manodarpan

2919. SHRI JAYANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries covered under the Government's Manodarpan initiative to provide psychosocial support for mental health and well-being, State-wise;

(b) the number of beneficiaries covered under the initiative for the State of Jharkhand, especially in the districts of Hazaribagh and Ramgarh; and

(c) the initiatives of the Government to incorporate mental health education and gender sensitization into the mainstream curriculum?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b): Manodarpan has been reaching out to students, teachers, parents and families from all states and UTs across the country through activities such as: -

- **National toll-free helpline (8448440632):** The helpline has a countrywide outreach to students from schools, colleges and universities and to their families and teachers, including those from state of Jharkhand. Tele-counselling services are provided to the callers seeking support on mental health and other psychosocial issues. Number of calls received on IVRS and callers provided tele-counselling so far is 25,435.
- **Live discussion sessions and webinars:** 'SAHYOG' sessions, which are held from Monday to Friday (05:00 pm to 05:30 pm) with practicing counsellors from all the region of the country (including the Eastern region covering the state of Jharkhand). Some of the topics covered are strengthening study habits, preventing examination phobia, time management, keeping oneself physically and emotionally fit, building resilience, understanding and regulating emotions, etc. The total viewership of different 'SAHYOG' sessions held so far is around 6,00,000.
- **'Paricharcha' webinars,** which are held every Friday from 02:30 pm to 04:00 pm with experts in the field of mental health, highlight the regional context and build perspectives across inter-related disciplines. Some of the topics focused on in these webinars include understanding needs and concerns for mental health and well-being, managing stress in the face of board exams, building positive study habits and enhancing concentration for better performance, etc. The total viewership of different 'Paricharcha' webinars held from 1st July, 2023 up to 31st July, 2023 is

11,779. 'Paricharcha' and 'SAHYOG' are telecast on PM e-Vidya channels and are also available on 'NCERT Official' YouTube Channel.

- Mental Health Week and International Mental Health Day celebration are facilitated in schools across the country every year since 2020. The aim is to build awareness and enhance mental health among students through participation in experiential activities related to well-being.

(c): Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, under 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan', with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being during the times of COVID-19 and beyond.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 document, has also highlighted the role of mental health in holistic development of students. The policy states that children learn optimally when they are nourished and healthy. Hence, nutrition and health (including mental health) of children will be addressed, through healthy meals and the introduction of well-trained social workers, counsellors, and community involvement into the school system.

The National Education Policy 2020 also envisages an inclusive and structural change in the educational system. It has a separate section dedicated to Equitable and Inclusive Education: Learning for All (section 6) which states that education is the single greatest tool for achieving social justice and equality. It has categorized Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) broadly categorized based on gender identities (particularly female and transgender individuals), socio-cultural identities (such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, and minorities), geographical identities (such as students from villages, small towns, and aspirational districts), disabilities (including learning disabilities), and socio-economic conditions (such as migrant communities, low income households, children in vulnerable situations, victims of or children of victims of trafficking, orphans including child beggars in urban areas, and the urban poor).

The Policy also elaborates that the school curriculum will include, early on, material on human values such as respect for all persons, empathy, tolerance, human rights, gender equality, non-violence, global citizenship, inclusion, and equity. It would also include more detailed knowledge of various cultures, religions, languages, gender identities, etc. to sensitize and develop respect for diversity. Any biases and stereotypes in school curriculum will be removed, and more material will be included that is relevant and relatable to all communities.

In pursuance of the National Education Policy 2020, the NCERT has initiated the process of development of the four new National Curriculum Frameworks for School Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Teacher Education and Adult Education. The concern of including gender sensitization in the mainstream curriculum will be placed before the Syllabus Committees and Textbook Development Committees of various subjects across all stages for integration in the curriculum and textbooks.
