

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 35  
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024**

**Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being in Schools under NEP**

**\*35. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:  
SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement a framework for mental health and emotional well-being in schools under the National Educational Policy (NEP);
- (b) whether there is any mandatory provision to have counsellor to ensure mental well being of the students;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the provision of fund made through public-private sharing;
- (d) whether the Government is having any proposal to launch comprehensive policy to ensure mental well being of the school students;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for addressing the rising trend of youth migrating abroad for higher education?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (f) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 35 FOR ANSWER ON 05.02.2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE M.P. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN AND HON'BLE M.P. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R. REGARDING "MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING IN SCHOOLS UNDER NEP"**

(a) to (e): National Education Policy 2020 takes a holistic view about the nourishment of children and their mental wellbeing which is required for optimal learning. NEP suggests multifarious ways to achieve the same. For the nourishment of the children, PM POSHAN Scheme is being implemented under which hot cooked meals are provided to the students studying in Balvatika and classes I-VIII in the Government and Government-aided Schools. About 11.56 crore students studying in 10.64 lakh schools have been benefitted under the scheme. During 2023-24, health check-up of about 6.98 crore students has been carried out by States and UTs under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) till 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

As per the perspective of NEP 2020, NCERT has developed and launched National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE). Both the NCFs integrate the mental well-being of students in different aspects such as syllabi development, development of content in learning and teaching material, pedagogical practices etc. The framework also lays emphasis on the role of all stakeholders, teachers, school functionaries, parents and community members to ensure that every student is provided with mental and emotional support.

For mental health and wellbeing, the Government has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, under 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2020, with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being. A National toll-free tele-helpline (844-844-0632) for reaching out to students from schools, colleges and universities across the country seeking support on mental health concerns and other psychosocial issues. The services offered on the helpline are free of cost. Manodarpan also provides Directory of Counsellors working at both School and College/University level on (<https://manodarpan.education.gov.in>) as a resource for students.

Live interactive sessions 'Sahyog' are organized for students on PM e-Vidya Channels, with practicing counsellors and are held from Monday to Friday (from 05:00 pm- 05:30 pm) across different regions. These sessions can be viewed on PM e-Vidya Channels and 'NCERT Official' YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@NCERTOFFICIAL/streams>). The total 'SAHYOG' sessions held so far are 725 and more than 10 lakh viewers have been benefitted.

(f): The Government has taken various steps to improve the quality of education and to retain the students in the country. The total number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) has increased to 58,643 in 2021-22 from 51,534 in 2014-15. 42 New Higher Educational Institutions which include 8 Central Universities, 7 IITs, 8 IIMs, 16 IIITs, 2 IISERs & IISc and 1 NIT & IEST have been established. The number of Universities / University level Institutions has increased to 1,168 in 2021-22 from 760 Universities in 2014-15 i.e., 408 Institutions were added. The number of colleges has increased to 45,473 in 2021-22 from 38,498 Colleges in 2014-15. During the 8-year period, i.e., 2014-15 to 2021-22, 6,975 new colleges were added. Government Colleges have increased to 9,193 in 2021-22 from 7,885 in 2014-15. Under the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship scheme, attractive fellowship is offered to selected students to pursue their Ph. D. in Indian Universities/ Institutions. The Government has sanctioned establishment of Research Parks at IITs- Madras, Bombay, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar and IISc Bangalore to augment the research ecosystem in the Country to enable the students to pursue their R&D interests in India, through innovative research.

The total enrolment in Higher Education has increased to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22 from 3.42 crore in 2014-15, i.e., an increase of around 91 Lakh in the enrolment. The Enrolment in Universities has increased to 96.38 Lakh in 2021-22 from 63.87 Lakh in 2014-15. The Enrolment in Colleges has increased to 3.03 Crore in 2021-22 from 2.52 Crore in 2014-15. The Number of Ph.D. enrolment has increased to 2.12 lakh in 2021-22 from 1.17 Lakh in 2014-15. The Female Ph.D. enrolment has doubled to 0.98 Lakh in 2021-22 from 0.48 Lakh in 2014-15.

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