

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2342**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03RD AUGUST, 2021/ SRAVANA 12, 1943 (SAKA)

SUICIDE CASES

**2342. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of suicide in the country particularly in rural areas has increased after the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study or proposes to conduct a study to find out the factors responsible for such increase in various parts of the country, if so, the details and the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes any specific plan for such section of the society to check trend among citizens in various States, if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether his Ministry is taking proactive steps in coordination with different Ministries to fight the mental health crisis many are facing post-lockdown and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (e): National Crime Records Bureau compiles and publishes information on suicides in its publication 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI). The published reports are available till the year 2019.

The Government has not conducted any study to assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on suicides in the country. However, realizing the impact that COVID-19 may have on the mental health of the people, the Government has taken a number of initiatives to provide psychosocial support during COVID 19. These initiatives include:

- (i) Setting up of a 24/7 helpline to provide psychosocial support, by mental health professionals, to the entire affected population, divided into different target groups viz children, adult, elderly, women and healthcare workers.**
- (ii) Issuance of guidelines/ advisories on management of mental health issues, catering to different segments of the society.**
- (iii) Advocacy through various media platforms in the form of creative and audio-visual materials on managing stress and anxiety, and promoting an environment of support and care for all.**

- (iv) Issuance of detailed guidelines by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru-"Mental Health in the times of COVID-19 Pandemic –Guidance for General Medical and Specialized Mental Health Care Settings".**
- (v) All the guidelines, advisories and advocacy material can be accessed on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website under "Behavioural Health – Psychosocial helpline" (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>).**
- (vi) Online capacity building of health workers by NIMHANS in providing psychosocial support and training through (iGOT)-Diksha platform.**

Further, to address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). Under NMHP, as part of National Health Mission, Central Government is providing technical and financial support to the States/UTs, based on the proposals received from them, for implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) 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.**

Further, with a view to improve access to mental health services, the Government is taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at the primary healthcare level. Mental healthcare services have been added in the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care under Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centers (HWC) Scheme. Operational guidelines on Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use Disorders (MNs) at HWC have been released under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat. Through these guidelines, mental health services are being provided to all sections of the society.