

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5154**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2022**

**Mental Health of Students in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

5154. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether teachers and counsellors are helping students build their mental strength, shed fear and find workable solutions; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof particularly progress made in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Education has undertaken an initiative, named, 'Manodarpan', covering a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing during the COVID outbreak and beyond. A Working Group, having experts from the fields of education, mental health and psychosocial issues as its members, has been set up to monitor and promote the mental health issues and concerns of students and to facilitate providing of support to address the mental health and psychosocial aspects during and after COVID-19 lockdown, through counselling services, online resources and helpline. Under the Manodarpan initiative a Web page (URL: <http://manodarpan.education.gov.in>) has been created on the Ministry of Education website carrying advisory guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Practical tips, posters, videos, do's and don'ts for students, teachers/faculty and families for psychosocial support have been uploaded on the Web-page. A National Toll-free Helpline (**8448440632**) for a country-wide outreach to students from schools, colleges and universities to provide them tele-counselling to address their mental health and psychosocial issues during and after the COVID-19 situation has been set up, which has been functional since 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2020. All the State and Union Territory Governments were advised to give wide publicity to the Manodarpan initiative of this Ministry so that the interested students/teachers/parent could make full use of these services.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been engaged in strengthening the capacity of teachers and counsellors to extend the support to the students for their emotional and mental well-being, help to deal with fear and find ways of dealing with these. NCERT offers the Diploma Course in Guidance and Counselling (DCGC) with teacher counsellor model so that such teacher apart from teaching can also extend help to students in dealing with academic, personal and career-related issues.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) provides pre and post examination tele-counselling facilities through centralized toll-free helpline. The Board has published material on how to be stress free. Audio-visual presentations on issues affecting mental health during this crisis have been made available on official YouTube and Facebook handles of CBSE. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) have engaged counsellors who help students to deal with the various mental health related issues. Teachers are trained through workshop/training programmes to help students in building mental strength, shed fear and find workable solutions. The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) has also engaged counsellors in each Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) for helping students in this regard. Teachers and counsellors are helping students to build their mental strength, shed fear and find workable solutions in all the JNVs, including JNVs of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of the schools are under the jurisdiction of the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments, it is for the respective State/UT Government to take appropriate action in the matter in their schools.

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