

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3304  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER TO CHILDREN**

**3304. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

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

- (a) whether the children who lost their parents due to COVID pandemic are reported to be expressing abnormal grief and post-traumatic stress disorder;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government to ensure their psychological well being;
- (c) whether the Government has data regarding total number of children who have lost both or one parent due to COVID, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure their continued education and financial stability?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Realizing the impact that COVID-19 may have on the mental health of the people, including children, the Government has set up a 24/7 helpline to provide psychosocial support, by mental health professionals, to the entire affected population, divided into different target groups viz children, students, adult, elderly, women and healthcare workers. In addition, guidelines/ advisories on management of mental health issues, catering to different segments of the society have also been issued by the Government.

Further, Government of India implements the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) as well as District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under NMHP in 704 districts of the country. Under DMHP, sufficient funds are provided to each district supported under the Programme for targeted interventions with the following objectives:

- (i) To provide facilitative skill to class teachers to promote life skill among their students.
- (ii) To provide the knowledge and skills to class teachers to identify emotional conduct, scholastic and substance use problems in their students
- (iii) To provide a system of referral for students with psychological problems in schools 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 announced a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” in the Budget of 2022-23, to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country.

(c) & (d): As per the Ministry of Women and Child Development, a total of 10,386 children who have lost both their parents due to any reason, including COVID-19 since 1st April, 2020, have been registered on “Bal Swaraj” Portal.

The Government has launched the PM CARES for Children Scheme with an aim to support children who have lost both the Parents or legal Guardian or Adoptive Parents or Surviving Parent to COVID-19 pandemic during the period starting from 11th March 2020. The objective of the Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of Children in a sustained manner, and enable their well being through health insurance, empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support on reaching 23 years of age. The assistance provided to children under the Scheme include:

- (i) Support for Boarding and Lodging
- (ii) Assistance for Pre-school and School Education
- (iii) Assistance for Higher Education
- (iv) Financial Support provides for:
  - (a) The lump sum amount transferred directly in the post office account of beneficiaries upon opening and validation of the account of the beneficiaries. A pro-rata amount credited upfront in the account of each identified beneficiary such that the corpus for each beneficiary becomes Rs. 10 lakhs at the time of attaining 18 years of age
  - (b) Provision of monthly stipend once they attain 18 years of age (by investing the corpus of Rs.10 lakhs) till the age of 23 years.
  - (c) Release of an amount of Rs. 10 lakh on attaining 23 years of age.

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