

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 288  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVES**

**288. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government for the mental wellness of the people including children, women and the elderly;
- (b) the amount allocated for the mental health and amount spent on it;
- (c) the initiatives undertaken by Government to increase awareness about mental well-being of people; and
- (d) whether Government has laid down any guidelines with respect to mental health awareness in school and college children, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): To address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) since 1982. The Government is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under NMHP in 655 districts of the country for early detection, management and treatment of mental disorders/illnesses. With the objective to address the shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the country, the Government, under NMHP is implementing Manpower Development Schemes for establishment of Centres of Excellence and strengthening/establishment of Post Graduate (PG) Departments in mental health specialties. Till date, support has been provided for establishment of 25 Centres of Excellence and strengthening/establishment of 47 Post Graduate (PG) Departments in mental health specialties in the country. Tertiary level mental healthcare facilities are provided through dedicated Mental Health Institutions as well as Medical Colleges run by Central and State Governments. The Government has also enacted the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, which came into force w.e.f. 29/05/2018. The Act aims at protection and promotion of the rights of persons with mental illness during the delivery of health care in institutions and in the community. It also ensures health care, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental illness within a rights based framework to achieve the greatest public health good.

(b): During 2018-19, the total budget allocation for Central Mental Health Institutions and NMHP was Rs. 599.76 cr, out of which a total of Rs. 545.65 cr have been spent.

(c): To generate awareness among masses about mental illnesses Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are an integral part of the NMHP. At the District level, funds upto Rs. 4 lakh per annum are provided to each District under the DMHP under the Non-communicable Diseases flexi-pool of National Health Mission for IEC and awareness generation activities in the community, schools, workplaces, with community involvement. Under the DMHP various IEC activities such as awareness messages in local newspapers and radio, street plays, wall paintings etc. are undertaken by the States/UTs.

(d): As per the guidelines for implementation of DMHP, funds upto Rs. 12 lakhs per annum are provided to each district supported under the programme for targeted interventions with the following objectives:

- i. To provide class teachers with facilitative skill to promote life skill among their students.
- ii. To provide the class teachers with knowledge and skills to identify emotional conduct, scholastic and substance use problems in their students
- iii. To provide class teachers with a system of referral for students with psychological problems 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.