

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 198
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

SUICIDE DEATHS IN INDIA

198. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a recent study conducted by Government agencies suggested that India is a major contributor to World's suicide deaths, particularly among younger generation, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) States which have reported high suicide rates and major reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to make concerted efforts to reduce this avoidable loss of human lives?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): As per the Report “India: Health of the Nation’s States” prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), the percentage of deaths due to suicide and interpersonal violence is 2.8% of total deaths in the country. Between the years 1990 and 2016, India’s contribution to global suicide rate increased from 25.3% to 36.6% among women, and from 18.7% to 24.3% among men. Suicide was the leading cause of death in India in 2016 for those aged 15–39 years; 71.2% of the suicide deaths among women and 57.7% among men were in this age group.

(b): As per the report, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have reported the highest suicide death rates in the country between 1990 and 2016. The causes of suicide have their origin in the social, economic, cultural, psychological and health status of an individual. The individual risk factors for suicide include, inter-alia, previous suicide attempt, mental disorders, harmful use of alcohol, job or financial loss, hopelessness, chronic pain, family history of suicide and genetic and biological factors.

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(c): To address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) since 1982. Under this Programme, the Government is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) in 517 districts of the country with the objectives to:

- (i) Provide suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counseling in schools and colleges.
- (ii) Provide mental health services including prevention, promotion and longterm 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.

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