

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 6  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021  
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY**

**6 DR. NARENDRA JADHAV:**

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any measure to draft a National Suicide Prevention Policy, as provided for in the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor
- (c) whether any inter-sectoral initiative has been undertaken by Government for suicide prevention, if so, the details thereof
- (d) whether Government has a strategy for reducing deaths by suicide and attempted suicides in India, if so, the details thereof and
- (e) whether Government has held any consultation with suicide prevention experts in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

(a) to (e): The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 does not provide for a National Suicide Prevention Policy. However, as per sub-section 2 of Section 29 of the Act, the appropriate Government shall, in particular, plan, design and implement public health programmes to reduce suicides and attempted suicides in the country. Accordingly, with a view to address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in 692 districts of the country for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. Facilities are made available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC) levels and include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc. In addition to above services, there is also a provision of 10 bedded in-patient facility at the District level. The objectives of DMHP are:

- (i) to provide suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges.
- (ii) to provide mental health services including prevention, promotion and long-term continuing care at different levels of district healthcare delivery system.
- (iii) to augment institutional capacity in terms of infrastructure, equipment and human resource for mental healthcare.
- (iv) to promote community awareness and participation in the delivery of mental healthcare services.

Establishing inter-sectoral linkages with schools and colleges to provide life skill education and setup counselling services for children and adolescents, outreach clinics/ camps at CHC or Taluka hospitals etc. are integral components of DMHP.

In addition to the above, with a view to reduce deaths by suicide and cases of attempted suicide in the country, Government of India has constituted a Committee of Experts for development of a National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The Committee comprises of experts from NGO, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam and representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture.

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