

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 28
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH APRIL, 2016
SUPPORT TO STUDENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

***28. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:**

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

- (a) whether Government plans to develop a policy framework to provide special support to students and the families of students suffering from mental illness, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government plans to provide special support and counselling to students and the families of students who have threatened or attempted suicide, if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 28* FOR 26TH APRIL, 2016**

(a)&(b): The Government of India under the National Health Mission supports the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) the components of which can include suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges. Currently assistance has been provided in 241 districts of the country with the objective to provide mental health services including prevention, promotion and long term continuing care at different levels of district healthcare delivery system.

With the objective to address the shortage of mental health professionals in the country as well as improving the tertiary care treatment facility, support has been provided under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) for establishment of 15 Centres of Excellence in the field of Mental Health and for strengthening/establishment of 39 Post Graduate training departments in mental health specialties. Besides, three Central Institutions viz. National Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur and Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi have been strengthened for augmenting the human resources in the area of mental health and for capacity building in the country.

Further, the National Mental Health Policy, announced in October, 2014, is based, inter-alia, on the values and principles of equity, integrated and evidence based care, participatory and holistic approach to mental health. The goals and objectives of the Policy include, inter-alia, the following:

- to reduce distress, disability, exclusion, morbidity and premature mortality associated with mental health problems across life-span of a person,

- to provide universal access to mental health care,
- to increase access to mental health services for vulnerable groups,
- to reduce risk and incidence of suicide and attempted suicide