

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2967
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH MARCH, 2022**

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY

2967. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of the budget allocation towards addressing mental health issues and awareness;
- (b) whether Government plans to undertake a comprehensive study on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health in different age groups, communities, gender groups etc.; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce anxiety, distress, depression and other mental health issues which worsened during COVID-19 and making mental health care accessible to the poor and marginalized groups?

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

(a): Under District Mental Health Programme, fund of Rs. 84.13 Crore have been approved for States/UTs under National Health Mission for the year 2020-21. Under the Tertiary care component of National Mental Health Programme, 25 Centres of Excellence and 47 PG Departments have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialities as well as to provide tertiary level treatment facilities. For this scheme Rs. 35 Crore have been allocated for the year 2020-21.

Funds allocated for the year 2020-21 to 03 (three) Mental Health Institutions, namely, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Tezpur, Assam, and Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi, under the administrative control of the Central Government are as under:

Name of the Institution	Funds Allocated (Rs. in Crore)
NIMHANS, Bengaluru	434.43
LGBRIMH, Tezpur, Assam	53.20
CIP, Ranchi	101.25

(b): Realizing the impact that COVID-19 may have on the mental health of the people, the Government has taken a number of initiatives, including -

- (i) Setting up of a 24/7 helpline to provide psychosocial support, by mental health professionals, to the entire affected population, divided into different target groups viz children, adult, elderly, women and healthcare workers.
- (ii) Issuance of guidelines/ advisories on management of mental health issues, catering to different segments of the society.
- (iii) Advocacy through various media platforms in the form of creative and audio-visual materials on managing stress and anxiety, and promoting an environment of support and care for all.
- (iv) Issuance and dissemination of detailed guidelines by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru- "Mental Health in the times of COVID-19 Pandemic - Guidance for General Medical and Specialized Mental Health Care Settings".
- (v) All the guidelines, advisories and advocacy material can be accessed on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website under “Behavioural Health – Psychosocial helpline” (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>).
- (vi) Online capacity building of health workers by NIMHANS in providing psychosocial support and training through (iGOT)-Diksha platform.

(c): For providing affordable and accessible mental healthcare facilities to the population, including the poor and underprivileged, the Government is implementing NMHP in the country. The DMHP component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 704 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. Facilities made available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre(CHC) and Primary Health Centre(PHC) levels, 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 a provision of 10 bedded in-patient facility at the District level.

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.
