

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 05.05.2008**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**INCREASE IN SUICIDES BY STUDENTS .**

547

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the cases of suicide by students in the country are increasing, particularly during examinations;
- (b) whether around 6,000 students committed suicide across the country during 2006, due to exam stress;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to review and change the school examination system and undertake drastic changes to reduce examination stress among students;
- (e) whether Government has taken a decision to launch a programme to train the school teachers and counsellors to identify the symptoms and causes of stress and depression among students; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ? ANSWER

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 547 ASKED BY SHRI N.R. GOVINDA RAJAR AND SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE M.Ps. REGARDING INCREASE IN SUICIDES BY STUDENTS FOR ANSWER ON 05.05.2008.

(a) to (c) : Reports on cases of students committing suicide have appeared in newspapers from time to time. The information on the exact number of suicides by students due to examination stress is not maintained in this Ministry. The Government recognizes the need to devise measures to reduce examination stress among students through involvement of all stakeholders, including parents, school authorities and society at large.

(d): National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examination more flexible, provision of guidance and counselling in schools, and over all to make learning child-centric.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already taken the following steps to reduce stress on students due to examination :

- a. Continuous and comprehensive evaluation with marks assigned for internal assessment,
- b. The examination system has been reconstructed to test more of conceptual knowledge and understanding rather than rote memory,
- c. Additional 15 minutes time is given in class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly,
- d. Setting up of examination help-line and making available sample question papers,
- e. Designing question papers so that all the questions can be answered in 2½ hours even though the total period of examination is 3 hours.
- f. Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing,

- g. Higher weightage to practicals,
- h. understanding, Introduction of Mathematics labs in schools to improve conceptual
- i. Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after the declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chances are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.

(e) & (f): CBSE has advised its affiliated senior secondary schools to appoint counselors. It provides counseling facilities centrally to students and parents through telephone and e-mail before Xth and XIIth class examinations.

NCERT offers a course on Counseling and Guidance for regular teachers/ teacher educators to follow Guidance and Counseling approach in their day to day teaching and interaction with students in schools.