

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 25.04.2005**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SUICIDES BY STUDENTS DUE TO EXAM STRESS**

434

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the tendency of committing suicide due to failure in examinations or poor results and tension is on the rise among the students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have ever given serious consideration to the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the year-wise details of the students committing suicide; and
- (f) the steps taken so far by Government to check it?

**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 PART (A) TO (F) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 434 FOR 25-04-2005 ASKED BY SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA AND SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR REGARDING "SUICIDES BY STUDENTS DUE TO EXAM STRESS".

(a) & (b): The attention of the Government has been drawn from time to time to the problem of increasing stress levels among students during examinations and instances of some students committing suicide due to failure in examinations and stress. There are various other contributing factors to such stress levels including parental pressure, increasing competition and the fast changing social and economic conditions.

(c) to (f): Yes, Sir. While no data regarding the number of suicides committed by the students is maintained centrally, the Ministry is deeply concerned with the issue of high stress level among students caused by the public examinations at the end of class X and XII conducted by various boards, Joint Entrance Examinations for IITs and other entrance examinations. To address the question of promoting equality in access to education as also allow the students to have a stress free environment of joyful learning, the Ministry had convened a meeting recently with Eminent Educationists, Principals, representatives from premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management, Heads of the Boards of Examination and others. It was unanimously agreed that there must be systemic reforms to eliminate exam-related stress. It was also felt that a national consensus on the issue should be reached through wider discussion.

In the context of review of the National Curriculum Framework, a National Steering Group has been constituted by NCERT under the chairmanship of Prof. Yashpal, which is being facilitated by 21 National Focus Groups. One of the Focus Group will address the issue of carrying out public examination reforms.

The Standing Committee of the IIT Council in a meeting held on the 5th March, 2005 discussed the issue of stress caused by the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the mushrooming of coaching institutes. It was decided that IIT Directors will come out with concrete proposals for bringing out reforms in the JEE. In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting, the Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE) is organizing a one day conference on the 1st May, 2005 of the chairmen of the School Education Boards to deliberate further and evolve a national consensus on this issue. Once the national consensus is reached, the process of examination reforms will be initiated before the conduct of the 2006 examinations.