

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 03.12.2010

ANSWERED ON

RISING TENDENCY AMONG STUDENTS CHILDREN TO COMMIT SUICIDE .

351

Shri Motilal Vora

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

- (a) whether cases of suicide among youth between 15 to 24 years of age have increased by 200 percent in last ten years and more than four children are committing suicide each month in Delhi alone;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to find out the reasons behind suicidal tendency among children;
- (c) whether Government would take any steps to attract children towards out-door sports; and;
- (d) whether parents` and teachers` insistence to turn the children into superkids has resulted in students falling victim to mental diseases as a result of which incidents of suicide among students are rising?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (d) OF THE REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 351 ASKED BY SHRI MOTI LAL VORA REGARDING RISING TENDENCY AMONG STUDENTS / CHILDREN TO COMMIT SUICIDE FOR ANSWER ON 3.12.2010. ACT.

(a) There have been reports of sporadic incidents of suicides by students. However, as education is a concurrent subject and a majority of schools/ colleges are under the purview of the State Governments, data on number of such incidents is not centrally maintained by this Ministry.

(b) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s report on accidental deaths and suicides in India for the year 2008, there are several causes of suicides including failure in examination, family problems, illness, insanity, love affairs, bankruptcy or sudden change in economic status, dowry disputes, poverty, unemployment and drug abuse.

(c) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made physical education and sports compulsory from classes I to XII. All its affiliated schools have been directed to introduce compulsory time schedule for physical education and sports activities for the students of all classes.

The National Curriculum Framework, 2005 recommends health and physical education to be continued as a compulsory subject in the schools from primary to the secondary stages and as an optional subject at the higher secondary stage.

Section 19 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE) inter-alia provides that no school shall be established or recognized unless it fulfils certain norms. These norms include play ground, part-time instructors for health and physical education, play material and games and sports equipments as required.

(d) Suicides committed by students are not the outcome of examination system alone but there are various social and economic factors which also contribute to stress and anxiety among the school children. The National Curriculum Framework 2005 recommends a child-centric approach to learning, reduction of curricular overload and focus on clarity of understanding.