

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3231
ANSWERED ON 29/03/2023

Student suicides in the country

3231 Shri A. A. Rahim:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the data on student suicides across the country every year for past five years;
- (b) whether Government has studied reason for increasing student suicides, if so, details thereof if not, reasons for the same; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has a mechanism to tackle the problem of student suicides, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor and whether Ministry has any proposal for such a mechanism?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) and (b) Education being a concurrent list subject, Educational Institutions are managed by both Central and State Government. Majority of the Educational Institutions in the country falls in the purview of the State / UT Government. The number of suicide cases of students of all these institutions across the country are not maintained. However, as per the Accidental Deaths & Suicide in India (ADSI), 2021, Report of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), there are various causes of suicides like professional / Career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders etc.

(c) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides for counselling systems for handling stress and emotional adjustments in Institutions. It also provisions for opportunities for students participation in sports, culture/arts clubs, eco-clubs, activity clubs, community service projects, etc. To address the issue of mental health and well-being during and after COVID, UGC had issued advisories to Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) on 05.04.2020. UGC has also issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student's Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well-being at HEIs on 06.05.2022. In January 2023, University Grants Commission (UGC), has circulated the National Suicide Prevention Strategy formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry has undertaken various steps such as peer assisted learning, introduction of technical education in regional languages for students in order to ease the academic stress. The Government of

India initiative, named MANODARPAN, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond. The Ministry has also advised the institutions to make the system more robust that would include prevention, detection and remedial measures for addressing possible cause of suicides.

The higher educational institutions take various steps such as conducting workshops/ seminars on Happiness and Wellness, regular sessions on Yoga, induction programs, extracurricular activities including sports and cultural activities, assigning of one faculty adviser for group of students to support with their academics and monitor their progress, and appointment of Student Counsellors for overall personality development and de-stressing students.
