SUICIDE BY STUDENTS .

3952   Dr.   Yogendra P. Trivedi

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

(a) whether trend of suicide by school and college students has increased in the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of suicides committed so far in Mumbai; and

(d) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (d): Sir, the details of suicides committed by students is not maintained centrally by the Ministry but it is a matter of great concern. Various socio-economic factors contribute to stress and anxiety among students especially school children. The Central Government has taken this issue seriously and has undertaken a number of steps to reduce examination related stress such as no Class X Board examination from 2011; introduction of grading system at Secondary School level; providing counseling for both students and parents; allowing fifteen minutes additional time to read Question Papers etc. Similarly, to counter stress amongst professional students, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have taken several measures to reduce academic strain on weak students by means of Special Slow Pace Programme; Mentoring Programmes; facilities for psychiatric intervention etc.

Both University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have notified regulations for prevention and prohibition of ragging in higher education institutions. The Ministry of Human Resource Development have taken several specific anti- ragging measures such as advertisement campaigns in the print, audio and audio visual media in order to sensitize various stakeholders towards the menace of ragging. An anti- ragging 'Helpline' is also functional with call centre facilities in English, Hindi and other Regional Languages for facilitating communication pertaining to incidents of ragging as well as to provide information on ragging and related issues.