

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 20.03.2002**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**INCREASE IN SUICIDE CASES**

1847

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news regarding the increasing number of suicide cases day by day;
- (b) if so, whether Government are considering to take effective steps or enact any law to eradicate the root causes of the increasing tendency of committing suicide among newly wed young women and students;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government under nation-wide campaign have taken any action against all those who have been fanning this tendency?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (d): Suicide deaths due to dowry disputes amongst women and due to failure in examination amongst students have shown decline in the year 2000 over the year 1999. The comparative figures are as under:-

	1998	1999	2000
Suicide due to Dowry disputes	2517	2572	2365
Suicide due to Failure in exams	2351	2279	2258

`Police` and `Public Order` are State subjects under the VIIth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The registration investigation, detection as well as prevention of crimes including crime against women and children is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments and UT Administrations to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures.

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The National Commission for Women (NCW) receives complaints relating to dowry atrocity cases including dowry related suicides. These cases are processed by the Commission under Section 10 (1) (f)(g) and 10(f) of the National Commission for Women Act and are referred to appropriate authorities such as the Police/district magistrates, for appropriate action. The Commission sponsors awareness programmes including legal literacy programmes. The Commission launched a Dahej Mukti Abhiyan in 1998 to generate awareness among the youth. It also sponsors the `Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat` under the Legal Services Authorities Act where disputes are resolved through mediation.

The Government of India has adopted a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. The policy reaffirms Government`s commitment to deal with all forms of violence against women.

The Department of Women and Child Development and the Social Welfare Board implement information and mass education programmes linked with advocacy and

legal literacy to generate public awareness about the issues concerning women and children including the evils of dowry. NGO's activist group at the grass roots and local panchayats are also involved in awareness camps.