

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 20.10.2008
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDES DUE TO EXAM STRESS .

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Dr. Najma A. Heptulla

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether, as per the record of National Crime Records Bureau, 648 students committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh due to exam related stress;
- (b) whether Government is aware that cases of suicide are increasing among 10th and 12th standard students in all parts of country;
- (c) if so, what has been done by Government to save these young and precious lives;
- (d) whether the Ministry has done any study on stress level of students and suggested any means; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?.

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a): As per the information received from the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, the State Crime Record Bureau, Uttar Pradesh had recorded 134 cases of suicide by students . in 2007 attributed to poor performance in examinations.

(b): Whereas reports on cases of students committing suicide have appeared in newspapers .from time to time, there could be many reasons including examination related stress or other socio-economic or psychological factors. The data on exact number of suicides and whether such cases are increasing among 10th and 12th ,standard students are not available in this Ministry.

(c) to (e): Although no specific study has been conducted on the stress level of students, Government of India recognizes the need to take measures to reduce the examination related stress among students. The National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have taken several measures to reduce the examination related stress among students. National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction-, of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examination more flexible, provision of guidance and counseling in schools, and over all, to make learning child-centric. Central Board of Secondary Education has taken several steps including introduction of continuous and comprehensive evaluation, reconstruction of examination system, giving higher weightage to practicals and internal assessment, conducting compartmental examination soon after declaration of results and provision of counseling services to students.