

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 25.04.2008
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDES IN THE COUNTRY .

3494

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether teen suicides in the country are among the highest in the world and suicides are the major problem worldwide with the highest rate being among the elderly in the west and among teens in the country bringing greater socio-economic loss due to the death of the young population in the country;
- (b) whether according to doctors, reports, suicides among young women are the highest in two countries, India and China;
- (c) whether suicides are very high in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry;
- (d) the main reasons of such highest teen suicides in the country; and
- (e) the concrete measures Government proposes to take to check this?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), no data on incidence of suicide in other countries is available. However, in the country, a total of 2913, 2555 and 2464 victims of suicide during 2004 to 2006 were in the age group 0 to 14 years and a total of 40136, 40234 and 42216 victims of suicide in the same period belonged to the age group 15 to 29 years. A total of 9213, 9317 and 9127 victims of suicide during 2004 to 2006 were aged 60 years and above. Loss of young people due to suicides leads to major socio-economic losses as it spans through productive age-group of the country. According to NCRB, a total of 41046, 40998 and 42410 suicides by females were reported in the country during 2004 to 06.

(c) According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the rates of suicide in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are very high during the years 2004 to 2006.

(d) Suicides occur due to a combination of physiological, social, cultural, economic, interpersonal and medical reasons. Causes are most of the times interlinked, cumulative and progressive in nature.

(e) It is envisaged to re-strategise the National Mental Health Programme during the 11th Five Year Plan period to include suicide prevention, stress management, counseling services for Schools and Colleges under District Mental Health Programme with active participation of community based organizations. Under district Mental Health Programme, School/College teachers, general physicians and health workers would be trained to identify signs of stress and depression in students. District Mental Health Programme would be extended all over the country in a phased manner.