

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

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SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL

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

- (a) whether children are ending their life for fear of exams and, if so, the number of students who ended their life during 2006, 2007 and 2008, till date ;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the reasons behind these deaths and taken any steps to overcome such unfortunate deaths and, if so, the number of complaints received and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to change the present system of imparting education and conducting examination/evaluation to overcome the fear of examination; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO FN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO~ 34 A~KED BY SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL REGARDING SUICIDES DUE TO FEAR OF EXAMINATIONS FOR ANSWERON 20.10.2008

(a) : Reports on cases of students committing suicide have appeared in newspapers from time to time but there could be many reasons including fear of examinations, examination stress or other socio-economic or psychological factors. The data on the exact number of suicides by students due to fear of examinations is not maintained in this Ministry.

(b): The Government recognizes the need to devise measures to reduce fear of examinations among students. Although, no specific study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons behind these suicides, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have been taking several measures to reduce the fear of examinations among students.

(c) & (d): 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 (CBSE) has taken the following steps to reduce fear of examination: a. Continuous and comprehensive evaluation with proper weightage to internal school based assessment, b. The examination system has been reconstructed to test more on conceptual knowledge and under standing rather than tote memory, c. Additional 15 minutes time is given in class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly, d. Setting up of examination help-line and making available sample question papers; e. Designing question papers so that all the questions can be answered in 2 ½ hours even though the total period of examination is 3 hours, f. Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing, g. Higher weightage to practical, h. Introduction of Mathematics labs to improve conceptual understanding, i. Providing counseling services to both students and parents through telephone, and also online, j. Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after declaration of the result of the main examination Five chances are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.