

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.647
ANSWERED ON 26/07/2023

STUDENTS SUICIDES IN CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

647 Dr. V. Sivadasan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students studying in Central Educational institutions who have committed suicide so far, social category-wise and economic category-wise, year-wise data for the last five years;
- (b) the categorised figures based on, Schools under Union Government, Central University campuses and its colleges, IITs, NITs and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutes, institution-wise, year-wise data for the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any studies or investigations regarding this, the details thereof; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to deal with this issue, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) and (b): Education being a concurrent list subject, Educational Institutions are managed by both Central and State Government. Majority of the Educational Institutions in the country falls in the purview of the State / UT Government. The number of suicide cases of students of all these institutions across the country are not maintained. With regard to Central Universities (CUs), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutes i.e. Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) the details of number of students who committed suicide during the last five years and current year are given below.

S. NO.	Institutes/Universities	Number of students who committed suicide during the last five years and the current year					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.	CUs (under UGC)	8	2	2	0	4	9
2.	IITs	8	8	3	4	9	7
3.	NITs	3	8	1	2	7	4
4.	IIITs	0	1	0	0	1	0
5.	IIMs	1	0	1	1	1	0
6.	IISERs	1	0	0	0	2	0
	Total	21	19	7	7	24	20

(c) and (d): As per the Accidental Deaths & Suicide in India (ADSI), 2021, Report of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), there are various causes of suicides like professional / Career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders etc. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides for counselling systems for handling stress and emotional adjustments in Institutions. It also provisions opportunities for students to participate in sports, culture/arts clubs, eco-clubs, activity clubs, community service projects, etc. To address the issue of mental health and well-being during and after COVID, University Grants Commission (UGC) had issued advisories to Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) on 05.04.2020. UGC has also issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student's Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well-being at HEIs. In January 2023, University Grants Commission (UGC), has circulated the National Suicide Prevention Strategy formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry has undertaken various steps such as peer assisted learning, introduction of technical education in regional languages for students in order to ease the academic stress. The Government of India initiative, named MANODARPAN, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond. The Ministry has also advised the institutions to make the system more robust that would include prevention, detection and remedial measures for addressing possible cause of suicides.

The higher educational institutions take various steps such as conducting workshops/ seminars on Happiness and Wellness, regular sessions on Yoga, induction programs, extracurricular activities including sports and cultural activities, assigning of one faculty adviser for group of students to support with their academics and monitor their progress, and appointment of Student Counsellors for overall personality development and de-stressing students.
