

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.669**

ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

Rising number of suicides in educational institutions

**669. SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:**

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of suicides reported in Higher Education Institutions including IITs, NITs, Central Universities and IISERs during last five years;
- (b) the number of suicides due to caste discrimination and the plans of Government to deal with the issue of increasing incidents of cast discrimination in educational institutions;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to analyse the root causes behind the increasing number of suicides in educational institutions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a) to (b): The number of suicides reported in Higher Education Institutions including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Central Universities and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) during the last five years, are as under:-

| Sl.No. | Higher Education Institutes | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | IITs | 8 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 2 | NITs | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | CUs | 4 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | IISERs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | SPAs | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 | IIITs | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Usually, suicide amongst students is driven by varied causes working in isolation and mostly, in conjunction, which includes academic stress, family reasons, personal reasons, mental health issues, financial distress, and inter personal frictions between students.

(c) to (d): The Government accords highest importance to each incident of suicide on campuses of educational Institutions and has initiated numerous initiatives in this regard. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provisions for counselling systems for handling stress and emotional adjustments in Institutions. It also provisions for opportunities for students' participation in sports, culture/arts clubs, eco-clubs, activity clubs, community service projects, etc. To check suicidal tendency among students, the Higher Education Institutions take proactive welfare measures to prevent harassment and mental wellbeing of students and have engaged Counsellors / Psychologists / Doctors for counseling of students from time to time. In addition, the Institute's own faculties / Wardens / Mentors are also actively involved in helping students to deal with a wide range of concerns be it academic, personal, emotional. These Institutes conducts regular counseling sessions through sensitization program for the students' community. Further, students, wardens and caretakers are sensitized to bring to notice the signs of depression in fellow students to the authorities so that timely clinical consultation may be provided.

University Grants Commission (UGC) (Redress of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2019 have been formulated to safe guard the interest of students. UGC has also notified UGC Regulations on curbing the menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 and issued circulars for strict compliance of the regulations. To address the issue of mental health and well-being during and after COVID, UGC had issued advisories to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on 05.04.2020. UGC has also circulated the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2021 formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The Ministry of Education 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. Besides this, students' specialised psychological counselling helplines, students' wellness centres, buddy-support system and various other measures have been implemented in IITs and other Institutions, for early detection of cases of psychological stress.

In order to proactively address any issues of SC/ ST students, Institutes have set up mechanisms such as SC/ ST students' cells, Equal Opportunity Cell, Student Grievance Cell, Student Grievance Committee, Student Social Club, Liaison officers, Liaison Committee etc. Further, UGC has issued instructions from time to time for promoting equity and fraternity amongst students.
