

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.108
ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

SUICIDES AMONG STUDENTS DUE TO COMPETITIVE EXAMS

*108 Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any data regarding the number of students who committed suicide due to competitive exams like UPSC, JEE, NEET and others in the last three years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has provided any compensation to the families of the deceased students, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide psychological support for the students preparing for competitive exams?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 108 FOR REPLY ON 13.12.2023 ASKED BY SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING SUICIDES AMONG STUDENTS DUE TO COMPETITIVE EXAMS

(a) & (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 data regarding the number of suicide cases of students due to competitive exams / entrance exams are not maintained by Ministry of Education. National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases. Details of the number of suicides of students in 2022 is available in the Accidental Death & Suicide in India (ADSI) 2022 report of the NCRB which is accessible at <https://ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/adsiyearwise2022/1701611156012ADSI2022Publication2022.pdf>. The Government accords highest importance to each incident of student suicide. To address the issue of suicide, the government takes preventive measures and provides psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide.

(c): National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 recognizes Education must build character, enable learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate, and caring, while at the same time prepare them for gainful and fulfilling employment. Apart from cognitive development aim is to build character and create holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills. Further given the 21st century requirements, quality higher education is being aimed to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals, enabling an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deep level, and also develop character and 21st century capabilities across a range of disciplines. NEP 2020 also stipulates that the development of capacities that promote student wellness such as fitness, good health, psycho-social well-being, and sound ethical grounding are also critical for high-quality learning and for reducing mental pressure. The need to integrate sports in education is well recognized as it serves to foster holistic development by promoting physical and psychological well being while also enhancing cognitive abilities.

National Credit Framework and National Higher Education Qualification Framework provides broad-based multi-disciplinary / inter-disciplinary, holistic education with flexible curricula, creative combination of subjects, multiple pathways, establishing equivalence, facilitate national and international mobility by utilizing the platform of Academic Bank of Credit; thus, enabling life-long learning and recognition of prior learning in cohesion with the multiple exit/ entry guidelines. Education through online and ODL mode, courses on SWAYAM platform etc. facilitate access to education to learners, anytime anywhere at their own pace. Launch of industry aligned courses; apprenticeship / internship embedded degree programmes; single unified internship portal in the higher education etc. enable learners to have multiple opportunities and career options and also facilitate easy transition from education to employment. National Credit Framework facilitates integration and mainstreaming of all types of learning including sports with education, which will contribute to the holistic development of students. These initiatives not only provide multiple options to the students for career progression but also build well rounded individuals with multi-disciplinary abilities to meet challenges thereby reducing the stress and pressure.

National Curriculum Framework for School Education inter alia suggests a roadmap to address the concerns related to mental health guidance and counselling work for emotional regulation and positive motivation; incorporating mental health aspects in curriculum etc.

An initiative of 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.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has formulated National Suicide Prevention Strategy to consider suicide prevention a public health priority. It also provides a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in India. UGC had also circulated the National Suicide Prevention Strategy amongst Universities and HEIs.

Common University Entrance Test (CUET) is being conducted for admission in Central Universities from the academic year 2022-23 to reduce the burden on students who earlier had to appear in multiple examinations in different cities. The syllabus is based on general understanding of subject at class XII level.

CUET, Joint Entrance Examination [JEE(Main)] and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test [NEET(UG)] being conducted in 13 languages to eliminate stress due to language barrier.

JEE examinations are being conducted twice a year with best of two attempts thereby reducing the stress and burden on students.

SATHEE (Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Exams) has been launched in collaboration with IIT Kanpur to provide quality education to every student who intends to participate in competitive examination such as JEE, NEET and various state level engineering and other examinations. SATHEE integrates advanced features like ‘solve with me’; assessment platform with more than 60,000 questions; NCERT based learning; including mentoring and live sessions by renowned faculties from institutions like IITs and AIIMS, an AI-based assessment forum, video lectures by IIT faculty, problem-solving forum, and an extensive e-learning repository.
