

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 509**

ANSWERED ON 07/02/2024

Students suicides

509 Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to limit student suicides in the country;
- (b) whether Government plans to undertake any reformative steps in the education system to tackle this problem;
- (c) whether Government specify the total number of student suicides in the last one year, State-wise; and
- (d) whether Government specify the objective and plan of the UMMEED initiative, and whether it really solves the issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Education (MoE), has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, under 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan', with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being during the times of COVID-19 and beyond. All activities undertaken under the Manodarpan initiative are aimed towards supporting the mental health and well-being of students from schools, colleges and universities, including those students who are preparing for competitive examinations.

A National toll-free tele-helpline (844-844-0632) for reaching out to students from schools, colleges and universities across the country seeking support on mental health concerns and other psychosocial issues. The services offered on the helpline are free of cost. Manodarpan also provides Directory of Counsellors working at both School and College/University level on (<https://manodarpan.education.gov.in>) as a resource for students.

Live interactive sessions 'Sahyog' are organized for students on PM e-Vidya Channels, with practicing counsellors and are held from Monday to Friday (from 05:00 pm- 05:30 pm) across different regions. These sessions can be viewed on PM e-Vidya Channels and 'NCERT Official' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@NCERTOFFICIAL/streams>). The total 'SAHYOG' sessions held so far are 725 and more than 10 lakh viewers have been benefitted.

(c): The data regarding suicides is compiled by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and not separately maintained in this Ministry.

(d): With an aim to ensuring mental well-being of school students, draft guidelines for schools towards prevention of suicide - UMMEED (Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Empower and Develop), have been prepared by NCERT. The guidelines provide an understanding for all stakeholders of school system about suicide, associated myths and facts, risk and protective factors and warning signs for identifying students at-risk.

The objective of the UMMEED Guidelines is to:

- Provide directions to schools for enhancing sensitivity, understanding, and providing support in case of self-harm or attempted suicide by students.
- Encourage nurturing of partnerships between all stakeholders- school, students, parents and community towards developing and implementing clear strategies for prevention of suicide.
- Provide a comprehensive action plan for prevention of suicide in schools.

The guidelines suggest a comprehensive prevention plan for school, including establishing a School Wellness Team (SWT), nurturing a positive and caring school environment, building capacity of all stakeholders, including students and steps for providing immediate support in crisis. The guidelines prepare the whole school as a system to take proactive measures towards prevention of suicide by creating a caring and sensitive school environment for all students.
