

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1155
ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

Recent student suicides

1155 Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of recent student suicides across Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi which have revealed allegations of persistent bullying and mental harassment in schools;
- (b) whether Government proposes to issue advisories for parents and teachers to be vigilant and notice behavioral issues/ warning signs like stress, depression or anxiety in a child; and
- (c) the specific steps taken by Government for stricter anti-bullying protocols/ mechanisms, trained counsellor and clearer systems for reporting harassment and stricter measures to prevent similar tragedies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Education being a concurrent list subject, Educational Institutions are managed by both Central and State Government. Majority of the Educational institutions and School Education Boards in the country falls in the purview of the State Government/UT Administration. The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases. Comprehensive analysis of the data related to the accidental deaths and suicides in the country is published in the yearly Accidental Death & Suicide in India (ADSI) reports by the NCRB. Year wise and State wise details of students' suicides are available in the year wise ADSI reports, which are accessible at <https://ncrb.gov.in/accidental-deaths-suicides-in-india-year-wise.html>.

The Government accords highest importance to each incident of student suicide. To address the issue of suicide, the Government is taking multi-pronged measures and provides psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide. An initiative of the Ministry of Education, MANODARPAN, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being such as National toll-free helpline (8448440632) that has been extending guidance to callers through trained counsellor; and live interactive sessions 'Sahyog' and Webinars 'Paricharcha' that are organized regularly to create awareness about the importance of mental health among all stakeholders, students in all States/UTs. These sessions are telecast on PM e-Vidya channels and are available on 'NCERT Official' YouTube

Channel. MANODARPAN also provides Directory of more than 350 Counsellors working at both school and college/university level on <https://manodarpan.education.gov.in> as a resource for students.

Moreover, the Manodarpan Cell in NCERT, under the aegis of this Ministry, has developed several resources such as handbooks, guides, activity books and advocacy material to augment capacity of teachers and school administrators for early identification and intervention and to foster a holistic approach towards student's mental well-being. This includes a handbook titled "Early Identification and Intervention for Mental Health Concerns in School Going Children and Adolescents (2024)" to equip teachers and allied stakeholders with the skills required to identify early warning signs of mental distress among students and to build sensitivity among all stakeholders for early intervention.

Various national summits and capacity building programmes have also been organized by the Manodarpan Cell, NCERT for training teachers as guidance functionary and to equip counsellors and practitioners for implementing the 'Whole School Approach' to facilitate mental and emotional well-being of students. With a view to augment the availability of trained counsellors, 250 in-service school teachers, teacher educators, school administrators as well as untrained guidance personnel are trained annually through a Diploma Course in Guidance and Counselling offered by the Department of Education Psychology and Foundations of Education (DEPFE), NCERT. The course prepares the personnel to provide guidance and psycho-social support to students in schools, including those situated in marginalised areas.

Additionally, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, has introduced a comprehensive regulatory framework and guidelines to improve mental well-being in schools affiliated to the Board. These are as follows: -

- I. Affiliation Bye Laws-2018 of the Board stipulates that "Every Secondary and Senior Secondary school shall appoint a person on full time basis for performing the duties of Counsellor & Wellness Teacher".
- II. The Board vide Circular No. Acad.-17/2015 dated 09.03.2015 had issued detailed guidelines for prevention of Bullying and Ragging in Board's affiliated schools. [https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2015/17_Prevention%20of%20Bullying%20&%20Ragging%20in%20Schools.pdf]
- III. The Board, vide Circular No.CBSE/AFF/SCHOOL SAFETY/19 dated 12.09.2017 has also issued detailed guidelines to its affiliated school for ensuring physical safety, mental & emotional health of children in the schools. [https://www.cbse.gov.in/cbsenew/Examination_Circular/2017/16_CIRCULAR.pdf]
- IV. The Board, vide Circular No. Aff.-24/2023 dated 01.09.2023, has further issued guidelines to augment safety arrangements for mental and emotional well-being of students in affiliated schools. [https://saras.cbse.gov.in/saras/Circulars/Circular24_2023638291895542842523.pdf]

Keeping in view the increasing importance of augmenting support for ensuring mental health and well-being of school students, CBSE has also taken the following specific steps in its affiliated schools:

1. Training of counsellors and wellness teachers through online and offline orientation/capacity building programs.
2. Implemented the Counseling Hub-and-Spoke School Model and Career Guidance Dashboard

3. Provided toll-free helpline with IVRS facilities for Classes X and XII during exams and results
4. Developed handbooks/manuals such as Mental Health Manual, Positive Parenting, and Compendium of Courses after +2.
5. Introduced Parenting Calendar to strengthen parent-school collaboration.
6. Disseminated podcasts on wellness, exam stress, career awareness, parenting, and skill education etc.
7. Partnered with institutions such as NCB and AIIMS for wellness programs, drug abuse prevention, and resilience training.
8. Directed schools to integrate the National Tele Mental Health Programme Tele-MANAS (helpline 14416 /1800-891-4416) and publicize the National Narcotics Helpline MANAS-1933.

Most schools in India are affiliated to School Education Boards which fall under the administrative control and supervision of respective States and UTs. This Ministry has been regularly encouraging States/UTs to introduce effective regulatory framework, guidelines and protocols to address the critical issue of suicides and mental distress among students.
