

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4233
ANSWERED ON-27/03/2023

Suicide in Premier Educational Institutions

4233. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of student suicides during the last five years in the premier educational institutes like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs);
- (b) the details of total number of student suicides based on Caste, Gender, Religion and Educational Institute;
- (c) whether the Government has been able to identify the reasons behind such suicide cases and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to address the root cause of student suicide in these institutions and Universities;
- (e) whether students face caste-based discrimination in premier institutes like IITs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the appropriate steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b): The details are as follows-

Institutes	Number of suicides in last 5 years	Caste					Gender		Religion
		Gen	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Male	Female	
IITs	33	17	9	6	1	0	29	4	Hindu-14, Islam-1, Christianity- 2 Data of religion is not maintained in 16 cases
NITs	24	10	8	4	1	1	19	5	All Hindus
IIMs	4	3	1	0	0	0	2	2	All Hindus

(c): The reasons identified behind such suicides include academic stress, family reasons, personal reasons, mental health issues, etc.

(d): 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. Further, in alignment with the NEP, to eradicate language barrier for the students for an improved understanding and improved teaching learning outcome, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has initiated the work of translation of technical books in 12 scheduled regional languages. 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 the after COVID, UGC had issued advisories to Higher Education 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 on 05.05.2022. University Grants Commission (UGC), vide DO No. 2-109/2022(CPP-II) dated 6th January, 2023, have 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. 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.

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 per 10 students to support with their academics and monitor their progress, and appointment of Student Counsellors for overall personality development and de-stressing students. 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.

(e) & (f): 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.
