

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.670
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2023

SUICIDE CASES AND GUIDELINES FOR NEET EXAM

670. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that large number of students who are pursuing coaching for NEET from various coaching centres across the country are committing suicide in the recent past;
- (b) whether the Government has any data about the number of students who committed suicide for the last 03 years;
- (c) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to frame a standard guideline to run coaching centres/ institutions across the country to save the students from forced suicide;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (c) 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 number of suicide cases of students of all these institutions and various coaching centres including coaching centres for NEET across the country are not maintained. However, as per the Accidental Deaths & Suicide in India (ADSI), 2021, Report of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), there are various causes of suicides like professional / Career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders etc.

(d) to (f) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides 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 address the issue of mental health and well-being during and after COVID, University Grants Commission (UGC) had issued advisories to Higher Educational 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. In January 2023, University Grants Commission (UGC), has 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. The Ministry has also advised the institutions to make the system more robust that would include prevention, detection and remedial measures for addressing possible cause of suicides.

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