Students Suicides during Lockdown

1337. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the suicides of student have increased during the lockdown, due to lack of access to digital means;
(b) The number of student suicides in the SC, ST, OBC and EWS categories;
(c) The number of students suicides in the age of 18-30 years after the imposition of lockdown;
(d) If so, the reasons thereof; and
(e) The number of students suicides, who were to appear for the NEET and JEE exams?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (e) The Government is extremely sensitive towards providing education to all sections of society during the on-going pandemic. The Ministry has undertaken an initiative, named Manodarpan, covering a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing during the Covid-19 outbreak and beyond. There is a provision of tele-counseling to address their mental health and psychological issues. NCERT has issued a detailed guideline under the document PRAGYATA which highlights important measures to be followed while using digital platforms. However, no centralized data on suicide cases are maintained by the Ministry.