GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 983

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08TH FEBRUARY, 2022/ MAGHA 19, 1943 (SAKA)

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS & SUICIDES

983. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of suicide in the country has increased after the COVID-19 pandemic as per "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India" for the year 2020; if so, the details and the findings thereof;
- (b) whether there has been an increase of suicide of children, students, house wives, unemployed, and self-employed during the COVID-19 lockdown; if so, the details category- wise, year-wise, State UT wise, including the percentage of increase;
- (c) whether the student suicides increased by 21 percent during the covid period; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is taking proactive steps in coordination with different Ministries to fight the mental health crisis many are facing post-lockdown and if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (d): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles statistic on accidental deaths and suicide from the State/Union Territories and publishes the same annually as "Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India".

Published reports are available till the year 2020. NCRB does not maintain

specific data with respect to suicide of children, students, housewives, unemployed and self employed during COVID-19 lockdown period.

The Government has however, taken a number of initiatives to provide psychosocial support to people during COVID-19. These initiatives include:

- (i) Setting up of a 24/7 helpline to provide psychosocial support, by mental health professionals, to the entire affected population, divided into different target groups viz children, adult, elderly, women and healthcare workers.
- (ii) Issuance of guidelines/ advisories on management of mental health issues, catering to different segments of the society.
- (iii) Advocacy through various media platforms in the form of creative and audio-visual materials on managing stress and anxiety, and promoting an environment of support and care for all.
- (iv) Issuance of detailed guidelines by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru- "Mental Health in the times of COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance for General Medical and Specialized Mental Health Care Settings".

(v) Further, to address the burden of mental disorders, the Government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) and is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under NMHP in 692 districts of the country. The programme aims to provide suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges; mental health services including prevention, promotion and long-term continuing care at different levels of district healthcare delivery system and promote community awareness and participation in the delivery of mental healthcare services.
