

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.83
ANSWERED ON 29/07/2024

SUICIDE CASES OF STUDENTS IN KOTA, RAJASTHAN

*83 Smt. MALA ROY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding suicide cases of students in Kota, Rajasthan during the last two years;
- (b) whether the Government has set up any fact-finding Committee on above said issue;
- (c) whether the Government has evolved any mechanism for counselling the students who are taking training for IAS and IPS in Kota;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 83 FOR REPLY ON 29.07.2024 ASKED BY SMT. MALA ROY, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING SUICIDE CASES OF STUDENTS IN KOTA, RAJASTHAN

(a) to (e): 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. 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 National Crime Record Bureau (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 takes preventive measures and provides psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide.

National Education Policy 2020 stipulates student support as one of the cornerstones of the quality learning. Along with providing suitable resources and infrastructure, the policy recommends availability of counselling systems to ensure student's physical, psychological and emotional well-being enabling them to handle stress and emotional adjustment. Accordingly, 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.

Ministry of Education (MoE), has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being. All activities undertaken under the Manodarpan initiative are aimed towards supporting the mental health and well-being of students from schools, colleges and universities, including those students who are preparing for competitive examinations.

UGC has also issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student's Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well- being at Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) on 13.04.2023, which provides for promoting physical fitness and sports activities for students; creating safeguards against academic pressure, peer pressure, behavioral issues, stress, career concerns, depression and other issues on the mental health of students; to teach positive thinking & emotions in the student community; and to promote a positive and supportive network for students.

The Ministry on 10.07.2023 has also circulated a broad framework for emotional and mental well-being of students in HEIs with request to take proactive measures to incorporate the same in the institutional functioning and instill a feeling of confidence in the student community. Accordingly, various Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) organized workshops on Mental Wellness & Stress Management in which different HEIs from the country participated.

Department of Higher Education has conceptualized a Capacity Building Programme for Promoting Positive Mental Health, Resilience & Wellbeing in HEIs. The program aims for sustained capacity building of faculty in HEIs, providing a platform for sharing of best practices and collaborating with panel of experts to focus on mental health & wellbeing of the students in HEIs.

Keeping in view the growth in number of unregulated private coaching centers in the country in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation; instances of such centers charging exorbitant fees from students; undue stress on students resulting in students committing suicides and many other malpractices being adopted by these centres; Ministry of Education has circulated a Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centers to States/UTs on 16.01.2024 for consideration by way of appropriate legal framework.

The Guidelines encompass several key aspects, including defining coaching centers, specifying conditions and necessary documents for registration, issues related to fees, outlining infrastructure prerequisites for establishing coaching centers, establishing a code of conduct for coaching centers; laying emphasis on significance of mental well-being, advocating for the prioritization of counsellors and psychologists' support within coaching centres; no batch segregation; maintenance of records etc.

In order to regulate the Private Coaching and tuition classes, a number of States / UTs have brought out legislations like Bihar Coaching Institute (Control & Regulation) Act, 2010, Goa Coaching Classes (Regulation) Act, 2001, Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Coaching Act, 2002, the Karnataka Tutorial Institutions (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2001, Manipur Coaching Institute (Control and Regulation) Act in their respective jurisdiction.

Education being in the concurrent list, the State and UT Government need to take further action by way of appropriate legal framework.
