

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 5697

ANSWERED ON- 04/04/2025

SUICIDE OF NEPALI GIRL STUDENT

†5697. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether a tragic incident of suicide by a Nepali girl students took place in the KIIT University followed by the circulation of a video on the internet showing the university officials misbehaving with other Nepali students;

(b) if so, whether the said incident has severely strained the Indo-Nepal diplomatic relations, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against KIIT University; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that such incident is not repeated with students of any other country including Nepal.

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) Government of India was deeply saddened at the tragic death of a Nepali girl student at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 16 February 2025. Following the reports of unrest on campus and closure of the University sine die for all Nepali students, Ministry of External Affairs liaised with Odisha State Government, KIIT as well as Nepali authorities to ensure corrective action and to prevent an escalation of the situation.

The State Government of Odisha took prompt action with registration of criminal cases and arrest of the accused student and KIIT security personnel involved with the manhandling of Nepali students. It formed a 24x7 helpdesk to facilitate the safety and security of students affected by the incident, their safe return and protection of their academic interest. The State Government has constituted a High Level Fact Finding Committee and appropriate legal and administrative action will be taken based on the findings of the Committee.

On its part, KIIT withdrew the aforementioned order closing the University for Nepali students, issued a public apology and appealed to its Nepali students to return to campus. Administrative action was taken against the staff involved in the incident. The University also set up a dedicated 24x7 control room on campus to facilitate the return of Nepali students.

In a press release issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal on 18 February 2025, Government of Nepal took note of the aforementioned steps and expressed gratitude for the support extended by Government of India, Odisha State Government and other agencies.

Foreign students studying in India form an important facet of India's people-to-people links with other countries. Government of India will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of all foreign students in India.
