

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1634
ANSWERED ON-15/03/2023

Rising cases of suicide amongst Students

1634 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of suicide cases of students in last five years in the premier educational institutes like IITs, NITs & IIMs;
- (b) whether Government has been able to identify the reasons behind such suicide cases and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of concrete steps taken by Government to address the root cause of student's suicide in the universities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a): The total number of suicide cases of students in last five years in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institute of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are as follows-

Institutes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
IITs	7	8	3	4	8	3
NITs	3	8	1	2	7	3
IIMs	1	0	1	1	1	0
Total	11	16	5	7	16	6

(b): Academic stress, family reasons, personal reasons, mental health issues, etc. are some of the reasons for such suicide cases.

(c): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provisions 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. Further, in alignment with the NEP, to eradicate language barrier for the students for an improved understanding and improved teaching learning outcome, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has initiated the work of translation of technical books in 12 scheduled regional languages. University Grants Commission (UGC), vide DO No. 2-109/2022(CPP-II) dated 6th January, 2023, have 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 per 10 students to support with their academics and monitor their progress, and appointment of Student Counsellors for overall personality development and de-stressing students. Further, students, wardens and caretakers are sensitized to bring to notice the signs of depression in fellow students to the authorities so that timely clinical consultation may be provided.
