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Title: Regarding considering the importance of mental health and providing a National Suicide Helpline Number for assistance to patient.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak during Zero Hour.

Sir, addressing the loss of life as 'Hit-Wicket' and 'Kai Po Che', the Indian media marked a new low while covering the unfortunate suicide case of Mr. Sushant Singh Rajput. Not only that, circulating images and asking insensitive questions to the relatives and close ones increases their pain, anguish and suffering. This is extremely disrespectful even of the deceased.

Already when time is so difficult, this form of heartless reporting causes severe impact on young minds, who are inspired by the person, who has passed away. This also, sometimes, triggers these minds to take same steps, and this did happen already. The very next day, a teenager committed suicide; and then, a series of such incidents came to our knowledge.

Major countries around the world either follow WHO Guideline or have formulated their own laws for sensitive reporting of suicide cases. It is high time that India also formulate a law in this direction; and until that happens, the Government must issue a set of guidelines for coverage of sensitive cases by the media. Also, as demanded earlier, the mental health is to be given importance and National Suicide Helpline Number is also an undeniable need of the people. Thank you, Sir.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री मलूक नागर को श्रीमती प्रतिमा मण्डल द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।