

>

Title: Request to provide a national helpline number to ckeck the people committing suicides.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important issue. Sir, according to the World Health Organisation's latest Report, India has the highest suicide rate in the South-East Asian region. The Report pegged India's suicide rate at 16.5 suicides per 100,000 people. Around 800,000 people end their own life every year in India. We are lagging behind in the area of mental health awareness. On top of that, there exists no national helpline number for people who want to seek help. Most of the helpline numbers run by different NGOs either turn out to be busy or the person providing help is not trained. In several cases, they are very harsh to the help-seekers. The moment, when someone decides to end his life, is extremely delicate and soft. One meaningful word can change their decision and one wrong move will push them towards death. Sir, India needs a national helpline number that can be provided to the people. It will not only save thousands of lives but also generate employment for people. Thank you, Sir.