

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding reported suicide of a student in IIT Chennai due to alleged discrimination by teachers.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Thank you very much, Sir, for affording me this opportunity. I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very shocking incident which has taken place in Chennai IIT. You may kindly see that a brilliant girl, Fathima Latheef, who belonged to my constituency and was my close neighbour and her family is known to me, was found dead in the Chennai IIT campus on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

Sir, she was a brilliant girl and was the first rank holder in the entrance examination. She got admission in the Chennai IIT and was a first year PG student. She was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Her parents – the father, the mother and the sister – are making specific allegations regarding her death which was under mysterious circumstances.

Sir, I would like to show you the copy of a note from her mobile wherein the names of Professors, ...\*, have been stated as the cause of her death. You may also kindly see that more than five persons, which included four students and one teacher, have died under mysterious circumstances during the last academic year in IIT, Chennai.

The parents are also making specific allegations regarding the religious discrimination against the girl which she faced and which had been the cause of her death of Fathima Latheef.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** आप नाम मत बोलिए ।

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Finally, it has been learnt from a newspaper yesterday that the authorities of the IIT, Chennai have already registered a complaint before the police that the parents of the girl are trying to tarnish the image of that institution. It is very unfortunate. We mark our protest. I seek a high-level probe into this case. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, this is not an isolated incident. Series of such incidents have taken place in IIT, Chennai during the last few years. The responsible persons should be booked and punished in a model way.

I would also like to urge upon the Government to have a high-level probe in this case so that no Fathima Latheef is forced to commit suicide in future in our country. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, a discussion in this House is required on the subject because students of IITs and IIMs are being harassed and forced to commit suicide. A high-level probe is very much required in such cases so that culprits are booked. Thank you, Sir.

**HON. SPEAKER :** Shri/Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar and A.M. Ariff are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.

**SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI):** Sir, in the past 10 years, 52 students have committed suicide in IITs, the highest institutions of learning in this country. To a Question raised by me in Parliament, the Minister himself has accepted that nearly 72 cases

have been registered of caste discrimination in institutions of higher learning. It is shameful. What are we teaching? What is the point of these institutions if this is what we are going to do to our students?

Fathima Latif was sent to IIT with a lot of promise. This girl has committed suicide under mysterious circumstances. Her parents say that before they went to the room of this girl, the whole place was cleaned up. Even the rope with which she hung herself, they say, has been removed. In the screensaver of her cell phone she has named a few Professors, but not a single FIR has been filed and no arrest has been done so far. The girl has specifically named a particular Professor, but there has been no arrest. So, whom are they trying to protect? Why has the Professor not even been called for an interrogation? What is happening? The students are protesting. How many deaths and how much of discrimination can continue to happen over there? As my colleague has already mentioned, the IIT is saying that the name of the IIT is being tarnished. If students are going to kill themselves because of discrimination and if this is going to continue, I think, it is only fair to say that these Institutions cannot continue to function like this. Institutions of higher learning cannot become places for caste and religious discrimination. Thank you.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** श्रीमती सुप्रिया सदानंद सुले को श्रीमती कनिमोजी करुणानिधि द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।

**मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (डॉ. रमेश पोखरियाल निशंक):** माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, यह सारा प्रकरण आईआईटी चेन्नई से संबंधित है । आईआईटी, चेन्नई हमारे देश का बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण संस्थान है । इस आईआईटी ने देश में

तमाम ऐसी प्रतिभाएं दी है, जिन पर हम गर्व भी करते हैं । इस घटनाक्रम के संबंध में आज उच्च शिक्षा के सचिव को चेन्नई भेजा गया है । वहां आई.जी. स्तर पर उच्चस्तरीय जांच शुरू कर दी गई है । जांच रिपोर्ट में जो कुछ भी आएगा, उसके अनुरूप कार्रवाई की जाएगी ।...(व्यवधान)

**SHRI T.R. BAALU** : Sir, we want a CBI inquiry into this incident. We are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. So, in protest we are walking out.

**श्री जुगल किशोर शर्मा (जम्मू)**: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से रोड एंड ट्रांसपोर्ट मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ सदन का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं । ...(व्यवधान)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष**: माननीय मंत्री जी, क्या आप बोलना चाहते हैं? अगर आपको बोलना है, तो बोलिए, नहीं तो जरूरी नहीं है ।

...(व्यवधान)