

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Need to take necessary measures for ensuring mental health of students.

SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI (JAJPUR): The pandemic has been a source of isolation, anxiety and stress for students. In addition, the times we live in, students are constantly battling peer pressure, stress owing to examinations, academics, parental pressure, feelings of inadequacy due to social media exposure, etc. National Crime Record Bureau's report of 2021 shows that suicides amongst students increased by 4.5 per cent in 2021. It is worrying to note that student suicides increased drastically during pandemic during 2020 and 2021, and have been on the rise in the last five years. World Health Organisation has reported that one in seven among 10-19 years old experience mental disorders which remain untreated and unrecognized. Adolescents' and kids' mental health has long been ignored and stigmatised. It is necessary that we bring this issue to the forefront and address it. We need more initiatives at school level for mental health intervention. Mental healthcare services should be made freely available in all schools. We also need initiatives that are aimed at parents and teachers so that they are sensitised towards the needs of the children, and are in a position to identify their mental health concerns. Creating supportive social environments and networks is crucial to fight the stigma against mental disorders. I request the Government to take necessary measures in this regard.