

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2384
ANSWERED ON-18/12/2023

Open House in IIT Delhi

2384. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether students attending an 'Open House' in IIT Delhi highlighted the failure of the institute to provide academic support to the marginalized students and efficient student counseling services besides inadequate representation of faculty members from the backward sections and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the students have submitted a set of demands to ensure that such unfortunate deaths do not recur and the charter of demands cited an RTI to point out that 14 departments have no ST/SC faculty members, 24 have no ST teachers, 15 have no SC teachers and 9 departments have no OBC faculty members; and
- (c) the details of those in distress who contacted the Society for Mental Health Suicide Prevention helpline 011-40769002 till now and help extended to them so far?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b): As informed by IIT Delhi, institute has constituted an Academic Progress Group (AGP) to help all undergraduate students to successfully complete their programme, to identify and provide individual assistance to students in need of academic support, to interface with academic units & hostels, to suggest required policy changes etc. Suggestions shared by the students for improvement in the Counselling Services such as hiring of new counsellors, strengthening of feedback systems, empanelment of outside-in-person counselling services, increasing number and types of counselling services, etc. have been implemented.

The Government, in order to ensure uniformity in adoption of reservation norms, and adequate representation of SC/ST & OBC category faculty positions in the Central Educational Institutions, enacted the Central Education Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019. SC/ST cell has been established at IIT Delhi with a mandate to ensure effective implementation, monitor and continuously evaluate the reservation policy for SC/STs and OBCs in respect of admissions, appointments to teaching and non-teaching positions, etc. as laid down by the Government of India.

(c): The helpline no. 011-40769002 belongs to Sanjivini Society for Mental Health, which is a registered non-profit voluntary organization. IIT Delhi informed that the information pertaining to this helpline number of Sanjivini Society for Mental Health is made available to the student community through the official Institute Counselling Portal (<https://bsw.iitd.ac.in/counselling.php>). As per confidentiality clauses pertaining to use of mental-health-help services, record of students utilizing these services is not available with IIT Delhi.

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. Besides this, students' specialised psychological counselling helplines, students' wellness centres, buddy-support system and various other measures have been implemented in IITs and other Institutions, for early detection of cases of psychological stress.

University Grants Commission (UGC) (Redress of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2019 have been formulated to safe guard the interest of students. To address the issue of mental health and well-being, UGC had issued advisories to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on 05.04.2020. UGC has also circulated the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2021 formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Further, IIT Delhi organized Workshop on Mental Wellness & Stress Management for the Northern region, on 30th May, 2023 in order to find practical tools and techniques to manage stress in Educational Institutes/ workplace so as to improve mental wellbeing and to know about the various mechanisms being utilized by other institutions to handle the mental well-being of students. Similar workshops were organized by IIT Madras (for Southern region), IIT Gandhinagar (for Western region), and IIT Guwahati (for Eastern region) on 12th May, 2023, 9th -10th June, 2023, and 26th August, 2023 respectively.
