

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1333
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2005
SUICIDE BY CHILDREN
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the NGOs like sanchetan working in cooperation with Police have observed that children between the age of 9 to 14 years have a tendency to commit suicide;
- (b) if so, whether such tendency is more pronounced in girls; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to arrest this trend including the changes contemplated in the education system to make it more responsive to the students` requirements and inclusion of yoga in the curriculum to relieve stress and make them tension free etc?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a): The Government has not received any such report from any NGO that children between the age of 9 to 14 years have a tendency to commit suicide. However, as per records compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, cases of suicides by children upto the age of 14 years during 2001-03 were as given below:

SUICIDES BY CHILDREN DURING 2001 TO 2003

AGE GROUP UPTO 14 YEARS

YEARS MALE FEMALE

2001	1498	1509
2002	1306	1574
2003	1278	1298

(b): The records indicate a higher number of cases of suicides by girls in the age group up to 14 years.

(c): Examinations are often perceived as a cause for suicide by children. As part of the National Curriculum Framework Review process, focus groups on school education related areas were set up, including groups on Examination Reform and Health and Physical Education. These groups, through wide ranging deliberations generated ideas for the construction of position papers in there respective areas. The position paper on `Health and Physical Education` stresses on the role of both Yoga and Physical Education in the overall development of the child. The position paper on Examination Reform focuses on the stress and strain resulting from the prevailing examination practices.