

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3269

ANSWERED ON:15.04.2008

SUICIDAL TREND AMONG STUDENTS

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of suicides committed by students especially before the commencements and after declaration of results of CBSE have come to the notice of the Government as reported in the 'Hindu' dated February 7, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory (UT)-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any committee to look into the reasons for committing suicides by the students;
- (d) if so the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the action/remedial measures taken by the Government to make the examinations stress free and to set up counselling centres for the students?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

- (a): There was no such report in the Delhi edition of the newspaper 'The Hindu' dated 7.2.08. However, such reports have appeared in various news papers.
- (b): Such information is not maintained centrally in the Ministry.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d): Does not arise.
- (e): Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken the following measures to reduce stress among children :
 - (i) The examination system has been reconstructed to test more of conceptual knowledge and understanding rather than rote memory.
 - (ii) Continuous and comprehensive evaluation with marks assigned for internal assessment.
 - (iii) Additional 15 minutes time is in class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly.
 - (iv) Examination help-line and making available sample question papers.
 - (v) Designing question papers so that all the questions can be answered in 2 1/2 hours even though the total period of the examination is 3 hours.
 - (vi) Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing.
 - (vii) Higher weightage to practicals.
 - (viii) Introduction of Mathematics labs in schools to improve conceptual understanding.
 - (ix) Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after the declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chances are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.