

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:335
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2009
SUICIDE CASES AMONG STUDENTS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Tandon Shri Lal Ji

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to cases of suicide by students on account of securing low marks or failing to clear the exams conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE); and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government /CBSE to check such incidents ?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 335 ASKED BY SHRI LALJI TANDON AND SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE REGARDING SUICIDE CASES AMONG STUDENTS FOR ANSWER ON 27.07.2009.

(a) & (b) : There have been reports in the media on sporadic incidents of suicide committed by students for having failed to clear the examinations conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or for having secured low marks. However, it is difficult to say that these suicides have occurred due to the examination related stress alone, as various socio-economic factors also contribute to stress and anxiety among the children.

The Government recognizes the need to devise measures to reduce fear of examinations among students. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examinations more flexible, provision of guidance and counseling in schools, and making learning child-centric.

CBSE has taken the following steps to reduce examination related stress among students:

- # Continuous and comprehensive evaluation at the school level with proper weightage to internal school based assessment,
- # Restructuring of the examination system to test more on conceptual knowledge and understanding rather than rote memory,
- # Provision of 15 minutes of additional time in class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly,
- # Making available sample question papers;
- # Designing question papers so that all the questions can be answered in 2 ½ hours even though the total period of examination is 3 hours,
- # Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing,
- # Higher weightage to practicals,
- # Introduction of Mathematics labs to improve conceptual understanding,
- # Providing counseling services to both students and parents through telephone, and also online,
- # Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chances are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.
- # Setting up of examination help-line.