

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:468

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

SUICIDE AMONG STUDENTS

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

- (a) whether cases of suicide by students in the country are increasing particularly during examination period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch a programme to train the school teachers and counsellors to identify the symptoms and causes of stress and depression among students;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government to reduce examination related stress and anxiety among students?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 468 ASKED BY PROF. (DR.) RANJAN PRASAD YADAV AND SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL REGARDING SUICIDE AMONG STUDENTS FOR ANSWER ON 28.04.2010.

(a) and (b) : There have been reports in the media on sporadic incidents of suicide committed by students. 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.

Based on news reports, 17 cases were brought to the notice to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in 2008 in respect of its affiliated schools. The corresponding figure in 2009 was 12.

(c) and (d) : The Government recognizes the need to devise measures to reduce stress and fear of examination 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, focus 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 affiliated senior secondary schools have been advised by CBSE to appoint counsellors. Teachers of CBSE-affiliated secondary and senior secondary schools have also been trained to impart life skill education to the students, and this is expected to reduce stress among the students.

(e) : CBSE has taken the following measures to reduce the examination related stress among students:-

- # There will be no class X Board Examination w.e.f. 2011 for students studying in CBSE affiliated schools having senior secondary stage and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after class X.
- # The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) has been introduced in its strengthened form in all affiliated schools with effect from October, 2009 in Class IX. It has been extended to class X from April, 2010.
- # Grading system has been introduced at Secondary School level (for Classes IX & X) effective from 2009-10 academic session.
- # Provision of 15 minutes of additional time in class X and class XII examinations to enable students to read question paper thoroughly.
- # Designing question papers so that all the questions can be finished comfortably within 3 hours.
- # More internal choices of questions have been given and the number of questions has been reduced to make the students comfortable in respect of time and speed.
- # Proper weightage to internal school based assessment based on project work and assignments in important subjects like Mathematics, Social Science and Science has been given.
- # Sample question papers, marking schemes and blue print of the question papers have been published to familiarize teachers and students about the nature of questions and question papers.
- # Five chances of improvements in class X in all subjects are provided. Also five chances of compartment in class XII examination in

one subject are provided.

Testing is more on problem solving & competency rather than on content.

Opportunity of continuous web based interaction with CBSE throughout the year has been provided.

Counseling services are provided by CBSE to students & parents through telephone, and on line.