

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
SUICIDE CASES IN PREMIER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether a number of cases of suicide by the students of the premier institutions of the country including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) took place during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, year-wise and institution-wise;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to ascertain the causes of these suicides;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken to bring down the number of suicides in such institutions?

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 REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 240 REGARDING "SUICIDE CASES IN PREMIER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS" ASKED BY SHRI VARUN GANDHI, TO BE REPLIED ON 17.08.2011.

(a) to (b): As per information obtained from the Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs), following suicide cases in premier educational institutions of the country during the last three years and the current year have come to the notice of the Government.

Sl No	State	Institutions	Year	No. of cases
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1.	Uttar Pradesh	IIT Kanpur	2008 02 2010 01	2009 01
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2.	West Bengal	IIT Kharagpur	2009 02 2011 01	
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3.	Tamil Nadu	IIT Madras	2008 03 2010 01 2011 02	
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4.	Maharashtra	IIT Bombay	2009 01	
		VNIT Nagpur	2008 01	

5.	NCT of Delhi	IIT Delhi	2011 01	
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6.	Kerala	IIM Kozhikode	2008 01	
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7. Jharkhand NIT Jamshedpur 2009-10 02
2010-11 01
8. Gujarat NIT Surat 2009 01
9. Karnataka NIT Surathkal 2010-11 01
- 10 Assam NIT Silchar 2011 02

(c) to (e) : The IITs enjoy autonomy in their functioning and are governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and Statutes made thereunder. Facts finding Committees / Inquiry Committees are constituted by the respective Institutes. Reasons for suicides as per the findings of the Committees include depression, academic load, peer pressure and also emotional / inter-personal issues. Based on the reasons identified, institutes have taken various preventive measures viz. providing sport and extra curriculum activities, appointment of Students Counselor to address personal, academic, psychological and family related problems, setting up yoga center / counseling centre, provision of anxiety helpline, appointment of students' ombudsman, introduction of slow pace programme for academically weaker students and setting up disciplinary action committee to take urgent action in case of any complaint of reported ragging, discrimination based on cast, creed, religion and gender etc. Analysis shows that in addition to the above mentioned causes of suicide, increased pressure on the wards by the parents to achieve high academic and professional targets unmindful of the ground realities has contributed to stress and depression leading occasionally to suicide. In order to overcome the problem following steps are mentionable:-

1. Anti-Ragging Measures : All the Students seeking admission are required to sign an undertaking (Countersigned by Parents) for "Oath Against Ragging". Violation of the above results in criminal prosecution besides termination of the academic programme. An Anti-Ragging helpline has been started with effect from 15.06.2009.

2. One Year Preparatory Course for students from weaker sections of the society is run according to their ranking in the entrance examination (JEE) and without compromising on the quality front, these students are inducted into First Year of the B.Tech Course after going through Zero year remedial aptitude enhancement course conducted by the Institute.