

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1933
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
SUICIDE CASES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES
Adhi Sankar Shri ;Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) the number of suicide cases in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other top Institutes in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating any plan to start counselling session in such Institutes to check suicide by students;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Union Government has constituted any task force for conducting a study of the circumstances leading to such suicides;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the major recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (f) the details of the recommendations which have been accepted and those not accepted?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a): The information regarding suicides committed by students in various premier institutes in the country is not maintained centrally. According to the information furnished by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), there are 15 cases of suicides that have been reported during the last three years and the current year.

(b) & (c): In IITs, there are Counselors to address students' personal, academic, psychological and family related problems. Further, there are Student Mentors in various departments who help them in their academic and other problems by providing proper guidance and also bring to the notice of concerned authorities about their problems for timely redressal. In addition, there are Student Tutors who help them to cope up with their academic problems.

(d) to (f): Pursuant to the decision taken in the 42nd meeting of the Council of IITs, a Task Force under the chairmanship of Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT-Kanpur, was constituted to study the

causes of suicides in the IITs and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) and suggest remedial measures. The Task Force has since submitted its report wherein it has recommended, inter-alia, creation of systems and structure in institutions with a detailed description of the functions and responsibilities of these systems along with the nature of institutional preparedness. It has also suggested establishment of an Empowered Committee for ensuring that the recommendations are followed and a common database relating to the availability of counselling and other support services in CFTIs, etc. are facilitated, besides promoting training programmes for in-house counsellors, faculty and others associated with the counselling services. The Empowered Committee may also work out the financial support which any CFTI may need in this regard.

The recommendations of the Task Force is being placed before the Council of IITs in its next meeting for its consideration and recommendations.