

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4564

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014

SUICIDE CASES

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a recent report of the World Health Organisation (WHO), India accounts, for the largest numbers of suicides globally and, in the 15-29 years age group, it has the highest suicide rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard and if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (d) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders to curb the trend; and
- (e) the manner in which the National Mental Health Policy/Mental Health Action Plan 365 proposes to address the issue of suicide and de-criminalize it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (c): Yes. As per the World Health Organization (WHO) report 'Preventing Suicide – A global imperative', India accounted for more than 2,58,000 of the 8,04,000 suicides globally and had the highest suicide rate of 35.5 per lakh population in the 15-29 years age group for the year 2012. However, the National Crime Records Bureau has reported that during the year 2012, the suicides in the age group 15-29 years of age accounted for 46,635 suicides out of the 1,35,445 suicides in the entire country across all population. The Government has not conducted any separate study in this regard.

The causes of suicide have their origin in the social, economic, cultural, psychological and health status of an individual. The individual risk factors for suicide include, inter-alia, previous suicide attempt, mental disorders, harmful use of alcohol, job or financial loss, hopelessness, chronic pain, family history of suicide and genetic and biological factors.

(d) & (e): The Government is implementing the District Mental Health Programme in 272 districts of the country with added components of suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges.

The National Mental Health Policy/Mental Health Action Plan 365, launched on October 10, 2014, address the stakeholders for, inter-alia, following action on the issue of suicide:

- i. Enable access to treatment and to other care-giving facilities to promote early recovery.
- ii. Implement programmes to address alcohol abuse and other drugs of abuse.
- iii. Implement suicide reduction programmes to reduce the likelihood of suicide and attempted suicide.
- iv. Restrict access to means of suicide, in particular distribution and storage of highly toxic pesticides.
- v. Decriminalize attempted suicide.
- vi. Train key community leaders in recognizing risk factors for suicide.
- vii. Set up crisis intervention centres and help-lines as part of the district mental health programme.