

Examination-related suicide cases by students and reforms in the Examination System

*495. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the frequent incidents of suicides by students on the eve of or - alter examinations and after declaration of results;

(b) if so, Government's information about the number and details of examination-related suicide-deaths and attempts to suicide by students during last three years in Delhi and in the country; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken to reform the examination system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) The Government have come across occasional reports of suicide related to examinations. Details of such suicide deaths are not maintained by this Ministry. These incidents are related to a number of factors including individual personality, home environment, peer pressure and a situation in which career opportunities are very limited in relation to mounting number of aspirants and examinations being a major determinant of career path.

2. Implementation of the examination reforms is a continuous process. The functional steps envisaged in the National Policy on Education 1986 and reiterated in the Programme of Action 1992 include elimination of excessive elements of chance and subjectivity, de-emphasis of memorisation, continuous and comprehensive evaluation, improvement in conduct of examination, introduction of semester system from Secondary stage and use of grades in place of marks.

Procurement of Wheat in Punjab and Haryana

*496. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat procured by the mandis in Punjab and Haryana during the last two years and that procured, so far during current Rabi Season;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers of Punjab have started blockade and boycott of grain markets in protest against lower procurement prices of wheat, if so, the extent of loss incurred so far;

(c) when was the price revised last time; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the price in the near future, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Quantities of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana during the last two Rabi Marketing Seasons and during the current marketing season are as under:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Marketing Season	Punjab	Haryana
1995-96	72.99	31.02
1996-97	56.28	20.60
1997-98 (as on 7.5.97)	26.17	10.31

(b) Yes, sir. The Bhartiya Kisan Union had launched an agitation demanding a higher price for the wheat to be sold to the government agencies. The agitation was withdrawn on 28.4.97. There was no direct financial loss incurred by the Government procuring agencies on account of the farmers' agitation except slowing down of the procurement during the period of agitation.