

Physical activities for minimising stress in technical institutes

538. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicide cases amongst the students of technical education institutes throughout the country is on the rise due to heavy study stress;

(b) whether the Ministry considers introducing mandatory participation in physical activity by the students in such institutes in order to minimize the effects of stress; and

(c) if so, what sort of physical activities the Ministry would like to propose for the students of the technical institutes to relieve them from the study stress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) Sir, there was one case of suicide among the students of IITs during the year 2016-17.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal for introducing mandatory participation in physical activities by the students in IITs. A Task Force was constituted in 2012 for prevention of suicide and promotion of wellness in centrally funded technical institutions including IITs. The Task Force recommended that there was a need to focus on sports, art and other extracurricular activities as well. The recommendation was accepted and communicated to all centrally funded technical institutions including all IITs. Wellness centre has been established in all IITs. The IIT Council in its meeting held on 28.4.2017 has also adopted measures to be taken by IITs for promoting wellness in the campuses. To further promote wellness among students of IITs, a workshop of all IITs was also held in July, 2017.

Publication of text books by CBSE

539. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE has the mandate publish the text books for secondary and senior secondary level;

(b) the prime objectives of CBSE, as per the mandate; and

(c) whether the Ministry has given any direction to CBSE to stop publishing text books and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Yes Sir, as per the Rule 9(X) of the Powers and Functions of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as stipulated in its Manual of Rules and Regulations, the Board has the power to make regulations for prescribing text-books or other books of study and to arrange for publication of such text-books.

(b) The mandate of the CBSE is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development held a meeting on 5th June, 2017 to discuss the publishing of text books by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the preparedness of NCERT for making available the books. It was decided in the meeting that CBSE, should concentrate on its main mandate of conducting examinations, awarding certificates and to affiliate schools. The complete responsibility of publishing text books should be handled by NCERT.

Statement

Powers and Functions of the Board

9. The Board shall have the following powers:—

- (i) To conduct examinations and grant diplomas/certificates to persons who, after pursuing a course of study in an institution admitted to the privileges of affiliation with the Board or having fulfilled such conditions as may be laid down by the Board, have passed the examination of the Board;
- (ii) To prescribe courses of instruction for examinations conducted by the Board, provided that the Board may prescribe different courses of instruction for different classes of institutions;
- (iii) To admit candidates to the examination conducted by it and prescribe the conditions for such examinations;
- (iv) To affiliate institutions for the purpose of its examinations provided that the Board shall not provide affiliation to any institution, without the concurrence of the State Government concerned if such institution is in receipt of a regular maintenance grant-in-aid from the State Government.

Explanation Note. It shall be within the powers of the Board to withdraw affiliation if it is satisfied after inspection carried out under clause (vi) that the standards of management and instruction in an institution justify withdrawal, provided that in case of a Government institution applying for affiliation the affiliation shall not be withheld, or in case the institution is already affiliated the affiliation shall not be withdrawn, without prior approval of the Controlling Authority.

- (v) To demand and receive such fees as may be prescribed by the Regulations;
- (vi) To cause an inspection to be made by such person or persons as the Board may nominate, of affiliated institutions or institutions applying for affiliation;
- (vii) To adopt measures to promote the physical and moral wellbeing of students of affiliated institutions and supervise their residence, health and discipline;
- (viii) To organise and provide lectures, demonstrations, educational exhibitions and take such other measures as are necessary to promote the standards of secondary education;
- (ix) To institute and award scholarships, medals and prizes under conditions that may be prescribed and accept endowments for the same subject to such conditions as the Board may deem fit;
- (x) To make regulations for prescribing text-books or other books of study and to arrange for publication of such text-books;
- (xi) To make regulations for imposing penalties for misconduct of students, teachers, examiners and examinees;
- (xii) To prescribe qualifications for the appointment of teachers in the institutions affiliated with the Board;
- (xiii) To submit to Government of India its views on any matter with which it is concerned or which the Government of India or any State Government or educational organisation may refer to it for its advice;
- (xiv) To advise the Administrations of Union Territories as to the courses of instruction and syllabi of middle school education with a view to securing co-ordination between middle school and secondary education;

- (xv) To acquire properties, both movable and immovable and invest the surplus funds of the Board in Government securities or in banks approved by the Controlling Authority;
- (xvi) To do all such or other things as may be necessary in order to further the objects of the Board as a body constituted for regulating and maintaining the standard of secondary education.

Autonomy to colleges under Delhi University

540. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Delhi University has recently offered autonomy to certain colleges in Delhi for enhancing academic and administrative freedom;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any college has given any response in this regard and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) to (c) The autonomous status to colleges is granted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in accordance with UGC Guideline for Autonomous Colleges 2017. The University of Delhi had preliminary discussions with Chairpersons of the Governing Bodies of the Colleges regarding expansion plans of the Colleges in terms of Academics and Infrastructure including procedural guidelines of UGC and constituted a Committee to look into various issues relating to the matter and formulate a policy. The University has received a proposal with regard to grant of autonomous status from St. Stephen's College, which has been referred to the said Committee.

Pick-up facility for schools bags

541. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, on experimental basis, an upper primary school in Kerala has launched pick-up facility for schools bags, through deployment of special vans to pick-up bags of students who can not afford bus travel to schools, because of financial constraints;