

Steps taken to remove gender disparity

1665. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to remove gender disparity in early stages including primary education in the country; and

(b) whether the disparity affected girls from poorer households the most, as parents who faced fund shortage preferred to invest in their sons by enrolling them in private schools, if so, the details thereof and steps being taken by Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Gender Parity Index (GPI) at various levels reflect equitable participation of girls in the School system. However, under Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education (ISSE), bridging Gender Gap in School Education continues to be one of the major objectives. Gender Parity Index (GPI) for the year 2018-19 at different levels of School Education is as under:—

Particular	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
Gender Parity Index	1.03	1.12	1.04	1.04

Source: UDISE+ 2018-19 provisional.

The GPI indicates that the number of girls is more than the number of boys at all levels of school Education.

To bring gender parity in School Education, various interventions have been targeted for girls under Samagra Shiksha which include opening of schools in the neighbourhood as defined by the State, provision of free text-books to girls up to Class VIII, uniforms to all girls up to class VIII, provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools, teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls' participation, provision for Self-Defence training for the girls from classes VI to XII, stipend to CWSN girls from class 1 to Class XII, construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas/in areas with difficult terrain.

In addition to this, to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education and for providing quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups, Kasturba Gandhi

Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have been sanctioned in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) under Samagra Shiksha. KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL). A Total of 5930 KGBVs have been sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha as on 30.09.2019. Out of it, 4881 are operational enrolling 6.18 lakh girls.

Committee to look into suicides in IITs

1666. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute a Committee to look into the incidents of suicides committed by the students of IITs in different parts of the country, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of suicides committed by students of various IITs in different parts of the country during the last two years, IIT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) Ministry of HRD had constituted a Task Force for prevention of suicides and promotion of wellness in the CFTIs. The Task Force submitted its report in September, 2012 to the Ministry. The report / recommendations of the Task Force was considered and accepted by the IIT Council in its 46th meeting held on 07.01.2013 and were forwarded to all the Centrally Funded Technical Institutions with the request to take necessary action.

The IIT Council in its 51st meeting held on 28th April, 2017 considered the issue of suicide and a presentation was made by Prof. Partha P. Chakraborti, the then Director, IIT Kharagpur. In the presentation it was emphasized that the IIT students face various challenges related to academic, inspirational, social & life style. The Council adopted the following measures to be taken by all the IITs, in addition to the counseling centres being run:—

- (i) Multi-modal Vulnerability Assessment for Early Identification
- (ii) Wider Mental Health Assessment Programme
- (iii) Help Manual, Attendance Management, Alert and QRTs.

IITs have also taken various steps for overall development of students as well as to de-stress them, which includes, establishment of Students Wellness Centre,