

Establishment of KVs in Karnataka

554. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to start Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas at non-served places in Karnataka; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are opened primarily to cater to the educational needs of the wards of transferable Central Government employees including Defence personnel by providing a common programme of education. Proposals for opening of new KVs are considered only if sponsored by Ministries or Departments of the Government of India/State Governments/Union Territories Administrations thereby committing resources for setting up a new KV as well as the availability of necessary sanction of the Government. The proposals received from various sponsoring authorities for opening of new KVs also have to compete among other proposals under the "Challenge Method". At present 51 KVs are already functioning in the State of Karnataka.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) are set up with the objective of providing good quality modern education to the talented children predominantly from rural areas. Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages opening of one JNV in each district of the Country. All the districts of the country (as on 31.5.2014) including 30 districts of Karnataka (except the districts of Tamil Nadu) have been covered under the Scheme.

Suicides in IITs

555. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the last five years, 27 students across 10 IITs took their lives;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any attempt to unearth the reasons behind the students taking this extreme step; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in addition to prevailing measures to prevent such suicides by the students of IITs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) No Sir.

(b) During the last five years (2015 - 2019), 25 students took their lives across 9 IITs.

(c) and (d) 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. Chakrabarti, the then Director IIT Kharagpur. In the presentation it was emphasized that the IIT students face various challenges related to academic, aspirational, social and life style. The Council adopted the following measures to be taken by all the IITs, in addition to the counselling 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, Guidance and Counseling unit and appointment of Student Counselors, student mentors, organizing Workshops/Seminars on Happiness/Wellness, regular sessions on Yoga, holding induction programs, extracurricular activities including sports and cultural activities etc.

Changes to the system of higher education and vocational education

556. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to bring in changes to the present system of higher education and vocational education by introducing more practical learning in order to make it more practical and employment-oriented;

(b) if so, the details of the steps initiated by Government in consultation with State Governments to make all level of higher education more practical and employment-oriented in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) The Government is in the process of formulating