

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Concern over increase in number of suicides and mental health cases in the country

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House and the Government to the alarming increase in number of suicides and mental health cases in India. Across the world, about eight lakh suicides happen annually; out of which 1.39 lakh happen in India. This means that India accounts for 15 per cent of the total suicides in the world. Also, there is a suicide happening in every three-and-a-half minutes in India, which is very disturbing. During the year 2019, there has been an increase of four per cent in the number of suicides in our country. Reports indicate that one in seven persons in India is suffering from depression. Number of persons affected by the mental health issues has exponentially increased after the Covid crisis and lockdown, especially the students and the children who are committing suicides across the country. This is because many children do not have access to online studies, non-availability of mid-day meals and the fear of getting affected by corona. The first and foremost reason for India's battle against mental health issues not being effective is the lack of awareness and sensitivity about the mental health matters. There is also a stigma attached to the people suffering from any kind of mental disorder and illness. Mental health situation in India demands active policy interventions and resource allocations by the Government and persistent nationwide effort to educate and sensitise the society about mental diseases. Mental illness must mandatorily be put under the ambit of life insurance. This will help people to see mental illness with the same lens as they use for physical diseases. The Central Government in association with State Governments needs to evolve innovative modes to deepen the penetration of services and establish helplines and counselling centres to effectively deal with mental health issues. Thank you.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Rajasthan): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SURESH GOPI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who wish to associate, please send the slips.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Special Mentions. Shri K.C. Ramamurthy, from Rajya Sabha Gallery No.1. संक्षिप्त में, you have to just read. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to ban online Rummy

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, Rummy is considered to be a game of skill. In reality, it is gambling and betting money through Rummy in the greed of getting more is not skill as it ruins families financially and otherwise. It is unfortunate that many have become addicts.