

SPECIAL MENTIONS*Demand to draft a National Suicide Prevention policy under the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 to stop the growing incidents of suicide in the Country**

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, According to data by the National Crime Records Bureau between 2018 and 2019, the number of deaths by suicide increased by 3.4 per cent. In comparison, 1,29,887 suicides were reported in 2017 whereas 1,39,123 were reported in the year 2019; an increase of almost 10,000 suicides within two years.

A research study on suicides during the Covid-19 lockdown period from March 24 to May 3, 2020 found an increase of 67.7 per cent in the number of suicides reported by newspapers, as compared to 2019, for the same period of time.

The findings of the study point towards an increasing trend in suicides by employed, middle-aged and married men. However, it cannot be ascertained if it is a case due to the lack of availability of real-time data on suicide and attempted suicides.

The impact of the pandemic has been far-reaching and has caused widespread economic, social, and emotional distress, which are known risk factors influencing suicide rates. A multi-pronged strategy to improve issues of health, livelihood and development is crucial to improve overall quality of life, and, in turn, prevent suicides.

I urge the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to draft a National Suicide Prevention Policy, as mandated under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. Further, it is recommended that real-time data on deaths by suicides and attempted suicides be gathered or a National Suicide Registry be set up to strengthen suicide prevention efforts and reduce deaths by suicide and attempted suicides in India.

* Laid on the Table.