

†جناب احمد اشفاق كريم (بہار) : مہودے، میں بھی خود کو مائنے سدسئے کے ذریعے اٹھائے گئے موضوع کے ساتھ سمبڈھ کرتا ہوں۔

श्री सभापति: धन्यवाद ज्योतिरादित्य जी। श्री आनन्द शर्मा।

Need for effective measures to redress the problems in education being faced by students during COVID-19 pandemic

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of this august House to a serious situation regarding the education of the children across the country right from primary schools to the higher schools, higher education. Sir, because of the pandemic COVID-19 and the lockdown, the educational institutions like schools, colleges across the country have remained shut for a long time. The students were advised to attend virtual classes. But, considering the low tele-density in India in rural areas which is barely 59 per cent and the social and economic disparities, the students from poor families, weaker sections of the society do not have access to smartphones or iPads or tablets. As a result, they have been deprived of education. There have been emotional issues, psychological issues and mental distress. As a result, a large number of students across the country have committed suicides. This needs urgent intervention from the Government.

The Government should set apart some funds and, in consultation with the States, ensure that virtual classes are held in the nearest community centers, in places where students don't have access to smart phones and also Wi-Fi connectivity. In addition to that, there should be counselling centres set up. It is not only students losing one year of education; it is also the larger fall-out, both social and economic, on the country. And, this is an issue which needs immediate attention. Now, it is total one year since the lockdown started. Therefore, it is high time, alarmed by the new surge of the second wave which is coming, and with many States getting affected, many cities are going in for lockdown. Students will continue to be in a state of mental stress. So, I urge the Government to call a meeting with all the State Education Ministers and find ways to help these children.

DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Sir, I associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

† Transliteration in Urdu Script.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री राजमणि पटेल : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

चौधरी सुखराम सिंह यादव: महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री नीरज डांगी (राजस्थान) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा: महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. This is a very good issue. The Government needs to pay attention towards this issue. Now, Lt. Gen. (Dr.) D.P. Vats; जनरल साहब, आपके पास दो मिनट हैं, आप दो मिनट में अपनी बात पूरी कीजिए।

NCR becoming the most polluted region in the world

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.) (Haryana): Hon. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of grave concern that Delhi has been labelled as the most polluted capital of the world for the third consecutive year. And, the N.C.R. is no way behind. Out of 30 most polluted cities, 22 are in N.C.R. region and most of them are in Haryana and Western U.P. Last year, there was a marginal improvement due to Covid lockdown. But, in totality, efforts have gone up in smoke. Through you, Sir, I request the concerned agencies to take non-populist measures or drastic measures to reduce the pollution so as to save the health of the people of N.C.R. region because there are 54,000 premature deaths in Delhi due to air pollution.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH: Sir, I associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Sir, I also associate myself with matter raised by the hon. Member.