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Title: Regarding the issue of suicide committed by students in the country.

SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY (MALKAJGIRI): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak on a serious issue facing the youth of the country, that is, rise of student suicides due to exam pressure. As you know, yesterday the results of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) entrance exam were announced and some students who had put in hard work may be disappointed if they did not score the rank they desired. To all those students, I would like to ask to stay positive and stay strong.

Madam, this is a truly shocking statistics that India's suicide rate is the 12<sup>th</sup> highest in the world. Our country, unfortunately, is home to the highest number of suicides among people in the 15 to 19 age group, as per a note from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2014. We ourselves have read news reports frequently that tell us about educational pressure faced by students who end up committing suicide, whether it is Class 10 or Class 12 exams or sometimes even 8<sup>th</sup> standard results.

Speaking on this issue in Rajya Sabha last year, hon. Minister Smriti Irani also addressed the issue of stress among students and mentioned that over 8,000 students committed suicides during 2014 in the country.

Given the seriousness of the matter, I urge upon the Health Minister to kindly take up this issue and call for a panel of experts to examine it closely. The key point is that suicides are preventable and effective interventions can decrease a person's tendency to have suicidal behaviour. Maybe a measure like national suicide prevention plan or psychological counselling or other guidelines can be created which can be followed by all institutions, parents and society. This can help save lives, especially, that of precious children who are the future of this country. Thank you once again, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak.