

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) An independent study commissioned by MHRD in 2006-07 in 20 major States, indicated a teacher presence rate of 81.7% at the primary level, and 80.5% at the upper primary level in the country. Jharkhand was not included in this study.

Separately however, the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) has conducted a study on teacher absenteeism in the State, which indicates that the average rate of teacher absenteeism in Government primary schools of Jharkhand is 21%. The State has initiated action, such as vigorous inspection of schools, posting of local teachers in the schools and Village Education Committees (VEC) have been vested with powers to check teacher absenteeism.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for Panchayati Raj bodies to supervise and monitor schools. Government of India has also asked States to monitor teacher attendance in elementary schools and put in place mechanisms to improve teacher presence and accountability.

(d) The expenditure against funds available in Jharkhand during 2008-09 was 75%.

Anti Ragging Committees in Punjab colleges

1133. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of colleges of all hues in Punjab where Anti-Ragging Committees were not constituted within three months of Supreme Court's guidelines in the matter;

(b) the names of such colleges where such committee has not been formed till now; and

(c) the action taken by the University Grant Commission (UGC) and Government for not forming the committee or by taking delayed action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Punjab, Anti-Ragging Committees have been constituted in all Universities and its constituent colleges in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Deemed university status to agricultural universities

1134. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to give deemed university status to some of the agricultural universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the criteria fixed to give such status;