

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has closed these centres after ensuring that these are not required in the concerned areas and the children from these centres have been mainstreamed in regular schools.

Inspection of universities

379. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission(UGC) cannot conduct surprise inspection of the universities;

(b) if so, whether such a limitation doesn't hamper the UGC's mandate to maintain and monitor the academic standards of the institutions of higher education;

(c) whether such a limitation is applicable for both Central as well as State Universities; and

(d) whether Government is considering any step to make universities more accountable to the regulator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission is bound to communicate to any University whether Central or State, the date on which an inspection is to be made under section 13(2) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, and the University is entitled to be associated with the inspection in the manner prescribed in the Rules. Consistent with the autonomy of universities, need for an effective and overarching mechanism is one of the priorities of the Government.

Regulation for checking ragging

380. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to check ragging menace, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has broadened the definition of ragging apart from bringing several other new regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the heads of various Central Universities have been directed to handle the menace of ragging effectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the administration of the Universities have succeeded in checking menace of ragging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 provide that "Ragging" constitutes any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student, or indulging in rowdy or indisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student or asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely effect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student, with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student, in all higher education institutions in the country, and thereby, to provide for the healthy development, physically and psychologically of all students.

(c) to (e) All Universities coming under the purview of the UGC have been directed to comply with the regulations of the University Grants Commission and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard. Pursuant to the order issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, all the Central Universities have established Anti-Ragging Committees and have taken adequate steps to generate awareness among all stakeholders regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. The UGC regulations have come into force recently on 17th June, 2009 and the impact of the same would be known during the forthcoming academic session.

Diversion of funds of mid-day meal scheme

†381. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the funds and items for the mid-day meal programme have been diverted to a great extent in several States during the year ending March, 2007;

(b) the status of utilization of funds and items for the mid-day meal scheme in the years ending March, 2008 and March, 2009; and

(c) the arrangements made to control this diversion and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The CAG in its Report No.PA 13 of 2008 for the year ended March 2007 has pointed out diversion of funds and foodgrains in 11 States under the MDM Scheme during the period 2004-07. The details are given in the Statement-I (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.