

(c) the details of steps initiated to liquidate this huge backlog and also for speedy trial of cases to make the administration of criminal justice effective, vibrant and meaningful?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):
(a) to (c) Government is aware of the size of pendency of criminal cases in various courts across the country, and has, from time to time taken steps to reduce the backlog of cases and facilitate faster trial by courts, at the same time ensuring the observance of the provisions of article 21 of the Constitution.

With a view to liquidating cases pending for long in the Sessions Courts Government introduced a scheme of Fast Track Courts which has been extended upto 31.3.2010. Government reviews the Judge strength (in High Courts) triennially and ensures prompt filling up of vacancies so that justice administration does not suffer from inadequate number of judges. In respect of filling up of vacancies in the Subordinate Courts, a matter falling within the domain of the State Governments, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given directions to the States in the *Malik Mazhar Sultan* case. State Governments have been reminded in this regard from time to time.

Government has, with a view to ensuring speedy disposal of cases, made appropriate changes in the Code of Criminal Procedure through Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, which *inter alia*, introduces the concept of 'plea bargaining'.

Intolerance and indiscipline in campuses

*66. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of growing cases of intolerance and indiscipline in the campuses;

(b) whether Government have taken steps to contain such cases of intolerance and misbehaviour;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement such steps earnestly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) While no exact data is available about cases of intolerance and indiscipline in educational campuses, certain incidents have come to the notice of the Government. Universities function under the respective Acts and Statutes, which provide for dealing with such situations and for taking action against the erring students. The Central Government does not interfere in the day to day functioning of the central universities or deemed to be universities, and have no jurisdiction in such matters *vis-a-vis* state universities. The University Grants Commission, which is responsible for coordination and maintenance of standards in universities, takes cognizance of incidents of indiscipline and misbehaviour in universities and colleges as and when brought to its notice.

Isolated incidents of 'ragging' in higher and professional educational institutions have come to the notice from time to time. Ministry of Human Resource Development and University Grants Commission (UGC) have issued necessary instructions in this regard to the Institutions of Higher Education and Technical Education and Education Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territories. All institutions approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have been informed by AICTE to ensure that ragging in any form does not take place and that necessary action including withdrawal of approval, would be taken if any violation is brought to its notice. State Governments and educational institutions are also expected to exercise necessary vigil in this behalf and take preventive and other suitable action.

Rural electrification in Himachal Pradesh

†*67. **SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages which have been provided electricity by Government during the last three years under the Rajiv Gandhi Village Electrification Scheme in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the amount provided under this scheme and the names of the villages which have been provided this facility so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.