

Incidents of suicide due to ragging

†993. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of ragging that have come into light in higher educational institutes in the current session and during last three educational sessions and whether there is indication of constant increase in such cases;

(b) the number of students who committed suicide, in the context of part (a) due to ragging or died due to depression caused by ragging;

(c) whether Government has given compensation to the kith and kins of those students who committed suicide due to ragging or who died due to depression; and

(d) whether Government would consider to make more stringent provisions in this regard keeping in view the constant increase in number of ragging cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As no information on incidents of ragging was being maintained centrally prior to the launch of the National Anti-Ragging Helpline under the "UGC regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009" no comparison with previous academic sessions is possible. Based upon the information collected from the Anti-Ragging Helpline and other information obtained by UGC, 350 complaints have been registered, which have been forwarded to the concerned institutions. A total number of 18 complaints communicated to the institutions have been responded by the concerned institutions and accordingly closed by the helpline.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Regulations of University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) already have stringent provisions to deter and punish incidents of ragging.

Central University status for Sambalpur University

994. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NDA Government had taken steps to convert Sambalpur University into a Central University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present Government proposes to convert Sambalpur University into a Central University; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Proposals are received

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

from various quarters, from time to time, for conversion of certain State Universities to Central Universities. The Central Government had taken a decision to establish, during the Eleventh Plan, one central university, in each such State which did not have a Central University. All States, except Goa, now have at least one Central University. There is no proposal to convert Sambalpur University into a Central University, as the Central University for Orissa has been established in Koraput district..

Children dropping out of schools

995. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to achieve the target in Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE), Government has drawn up any schemes to check dropout rate at primary levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that more than eight per cent of children are still dropping out of primary schools in the country and State Governments' efforts to check such dropouts are not found satisfactory; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Union Government's schemes/plans are going to check dropout rate at primary levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The cohort dropout rates at primary education level have declined consistently from 40.70% in 2000-01 to 25.60% in 2006-07 as per the Select Education Statistics (SES) brought out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. At elementary level the dropout rate has declined from 53.70% in 2000-01 to 45.90% in 2006-07. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a flagship programme for the universalisation of elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing dropout rates. The interventions include, *interalia*, opening of new schools, improving school infrastructure, recruiting additional teachers, providing annual school and teacher grants, conducting regular training of teachers, providing academic support to teachers, and free text-books to children. In addition, SSA provides intervention for community support for children who are dropouts, promotes education of girls, children with special needs (CWSN) and children from disadvantaged groups.

Schemes for small and medium enterprises

996. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes/programmes of his Ministry implemented towards the betterment of the small and medium enterprises in the country;

(b) the total budget allocation received by Ministry during the last fiscal year for the purpose; and