

Out of these, JNVs in Umaria, Ujjain and Jhabua districts of Madhya Pradesh are functional.

(b) and (c) Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme envisages setting up of one JNV in each district. Setting up of a JNV is based on the proposal from the concerned State Government offering suitable land free of cost and making available required temporary building to run the Vidyalaya till the permanent building is constructed. There are 71 districts in Uttar Pradesh and 70 of them have got Vidyalayas sanctioned, and in 68 of them, the Vidyalayas are functional. Vidyalayas in the districts of Deoria and Rampur are not functional for lack of temporary buildings from the State Governments. No proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for opening of a JNV in the remaining district of Kanshi Ram Nagar.

(d) and (e) JNVs are residential schools and the requisite facilities have been provided in these Vidyalayas.

Ragging incidents

973. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that incidents of ragging are still occurring in colleges and universities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far by the authorities and how effective have they proved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Based on information obtained from the National Anti Ragging Helpline established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 350 complaints of ragging have been registered through Helpline during the current academic year.

(b) In accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court of India dated 16.05.2007, 12.12.2007, 30.3.2009 and 8.5.2009, in the matter of University of Kerala Vs Council, Principals' Colleges, Kerala and Ors., the Government has issued directions to regulatory bodies to implement major recommendations made by the Committee headed by Dr. R.K. Raghavan to look into the issue of ragging and suggest means of prevention in educational institutions. This Ministry has also requested the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all State Governments/Union Territories to comply with the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court of India.

The University Grants Commission has notified, on 17th June, 2009, its regulation namely "The UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009". The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also notified its anti-ragging regulation on 01-07-2009.

The regulations require higher educational institutions to take effective steps in order to sensitize students on the dehumanizing effects of ragging and generate awareness among all

stakeholders regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. The administrative action against the students found indulging in or abetting ragging is taken by the concerned higher educational institution while the criminal action, if any, is taken by the district administration. The Regulations also provide for action against an institution or college by the affiliating University that fails to curb ragging effectively. Administrative action can be taken against a member of the faculty or staff, including the Principal, where a lapse is attributable in the matter of reporting or taking prompt action to prevent an incident of ragging or display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging. This action is to be taken by the concerned appointing authority of the institution. Therefore, the initial action in incidents of ragging against the students or Principal is to be taken by the concerned institution and by the affiliating University. The statutory regulatory bodies *i.e.* the UGC or the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), can proceed against an institution which fails to curb ragging effectively by taking any one or more of the following steps, namely, withdrawal of declaration of fitness to receive grants under section 12B of the UGC Act, withholding any grant allocated, declaring the institution ineligible for consideration for any assistance under any of the general or special assistance programmes, informing the general public, including potential candidates for admission, through a notice declaring that the institution does not possess the minimum academic standards.

A toll free anti-ragging “Helpline” has already been launched on 20th June, 2009 with Call Centre facilities in English, Hindi and regional languages (Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Marathi, Oriya, Assamese, Gujarathi and Bengali) to begin with, for helping victims of ragging, besides facilitating effective action in respect of such incidents. This is being further strengthened by creating a web enabled portal for monitoring appropriate data bases and online interactive facilities.

Requirement of teachers

974. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of additional teachers required to fully implement the Right to Education Act;

(b) the steps Government has taken for ensuring availability of trained teachers with leadership skills at the block and district levels in diverse terrains across the country as there is chronic shortage of trained teachers even for the existing educational institutions at the primary and secondary level, especially in rural and semi-urban areas; and

(c) whether matching infrastructure like accommodation, basic libraries and reading material, etc. is available in requisite quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per estimates prepared by the National