

(c) the extent to which the country has been benefited by the said conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University and TERI have organised the International Conference on Digital Libraries during 23rd–26th February, 2010 with the objective to provide a platform for interaction among experts, researchers, academics and students on the issue of bridging the digital divide through knowledge sharing. The Conference provided vision to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled education, including web-based methodologies, etc. for furtherance of the objectives of Distance Learning.

Opening of Navodaya schools

†972. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya schools opened in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise and place-wise;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to open more Navodaya schools in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is contemplating to provide facilities like those of Central Schools of the country in Navodaya schools; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The details of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Navodaya Schools sanctioned during the year(s)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Village Mehda, PO GI Estate, District Deoria	Nil	Village and PO Kira, Tehsil Shahbad, District Rampur
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Village Chaotipali, Tehsil Basudevgarh, District Umaria	Nil	1. Pipaliya Mollu, PO Unhel, District Ujjain 2. Village Machdi Mata, PO Thandla, District Jhabua

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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