

have taken place over the past one year as also information relating to the status of the trials, the charges framed and convictions. He stressed the importance of setting up an institutional mechanism for sharing such information. He also requested the Premier of Victoria and New South Wales about extending transport concession to international students and increase in accommodation facilities for international students.

Immediately after the above visit, the Premier of Victoria has sent an update to the Minister of Human Resource Development on the measures taken by the Victorian Government to improve the experience of international students in Victoria and to help safeguard the well-being of Indian students and the Indian community in Victoria, as well as to provide further information on cases involving Indian victims.

#### **Payment for foodgrains for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme**

3942. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme which is one of the biggest cooked meal programme is facing foodgrain shortage and is likely to be disrupted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the dispute between his Ministry and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution over payment has directly affected the Mid-Day-Meal programme; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute and to implement the scheme in an effective manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Due to insistence of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for pre-payment of cost of foodgrains, there has been delay in intimating the State-wise allocation of foodgrains to its field units by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Consequently, some States like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Punjab have pointed out shortage of foodgrains for implementing the scheme.

(c) and (d) Inter-ministerial consultations have been held to resolve the issue. On the direction of Department of Food and Public Distribution, the FCI has instructed its regional offices on 12.4.2010 to release the foodgrains for the first quarter as per the allocation made by this Ministry. Accordingly, all the States/UTs have been advised by this Ministry *vide* letter dated 13.4.2010 to lift foodgrains from the FCI.

#### **Suicide by students**

3943. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that students are committing suicide in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessary measures taken by Government to prevent them from this tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Sir, the details of suicides committed by students is not maintained centrally by the Ministry but it is a matter of great concern. Various socio-economic factors contribute to stress and anxiety among students especially school children. The Central Government has taken this issue seriously and has undertaken a number of steps to reduce examination related stress such as no Class X Board examination from 2011; introduction of grading system at Secondary School level; providing counseling for both students and parents; allowing fifteen minutes additional time to read Question Papers etc. Similarly, to counter stress amongst professional students, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have taken several measures to reduce academic strain on weak students by means of Special Slow Pace Programme; Mentoring Programmes; facilities for psychiatric intervention etc.

Both University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have notified regulations for prevention and prohibition of ragging in higher education institutions. The Ministry of Human Resource Development have taken several specific anti-ragging measures such as advertisement campaigns in the print, audio and audio visual media in order to sensitize various stakeholders towards the menace of ragging. An anti-ragging 'Helpline' is also functional with call centre facilities in English, Hindi and other Regional Languages for facilitating communication pertaining to incidents of ragging as well as to provide information on ragging and related issues.

#### **Filling of OBC quota in professional colleges and institutions**

3944. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the OBC quota has not been fully filled by the professional colleges and institutions;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Since the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act, 2006 provides for implementation in a phased manner consistent with the maintenance of standards of education, seats in certain courses of study in different institutions have not been fully filled. While all necessary guidelines have been issued to