

centres, 9385 Madarasas/Maqtabs and 5794 NCLP schools as proposed by the State Governments and Union Territories for coverage under MDMS along with number of children and working days. It was clarified to the States/UTs that the PAB approval on above numbers is only for the purpose of estimating Central Assistance under MDM Scheme, every student attending the institutions, eligible to be covered under the scheme, will be served Mid Day Meal on all school days. In the event of any increase in these numbers, if the State Government/UT Administration finds that the available resources are not adequate, it may approach Government of India with evidence for enhancement of the same.

Anti-ragging mechanism

1428. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that ragging is still prevalent in our educational institutions throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the anti-ragging mechanism which was considered a year ago has not been put in place;

(c) if so, whether Government in consultation with States proposes to bring in a legislation to tackle it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No information on incidents of ragging was being maintained centrally prior to the launch of the National Anti-Ragging Helpline on 20th June, 2009 under the "UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009". Based on information obtained from the National Anti Ragging Helpline established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 409 complaints on ragging have been registered through the Helpline.

(b) 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. The Government 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'ble Supreme Court of India.

The University Grants Commission has notified, on 17th June, 2009, its regulations namely "The UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009". The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Medical Council of India (MCI) and Dental Council of India have also notified anti-ragging regulations on 01-07-2009, 3-8-2009 and 13-08-2009 respectively. Pharmacy Council of India has issued the guidelines to curb the menace of ragging in pharmacy colleges/institutions. UGC's regulations are binding on universities as well as institutions affiliated thereto, institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology which do not come under purview of the UGC or under any of the statutory councils have also been advised to adopt the UGC regulations with appropriate modifications.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Educational loans

†1429. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) has been created for providing educational loans; and

(b) if so, the details of the loan assistance provided in different States by this corporation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) There is a proposal under consideration for establishment of National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) for providing loans for infrastructure development and expansion of educational institutions, as well as refinance facility for educational loans.

UGC guidelines to universities

1430. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued new set of guidelines for Universities to be followed while granting temporary or permanent affiliation to colleges and recognized educational institutions; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.