

Experiments on living animals

‡2633. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiments on living animals are being carried out in laboratories of universities and colleges in spite of circulars, orders and instructions issued to the contrary by U.G.C during 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would issue any orders or instructions for not carrying out such experiments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether a petition had also been filed in the court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it had received some references from some eminent people complaining that several universities offering life science courses are taking advantage of a minor disparity between the UGC guidelines and those issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in order to continue dissecting animals.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The UGC has already issued guidelines on discontinuation of dissection and animal experimentation in Zoology/Life Sciences in higher educational institutions. These guidelines are available on www.ugc.ac.in. All Universities deemed to be Universities have been requested to ensure compliance of these guidelines by all departments of that University as well as by the affiliated colleges. The UGC, in its meeting held on 22nd July, 2014, had also resolved to strengthen the implementation of these guidelines by notify it and extended its provisions to include post-graduate programs. It also resolved that no animal from any species shall be dissected either by teachers or students for any purpose at these levels.

Further, the Medical Council of India has amended the Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999 to mandate use of Computer assisted modules for imparting required knowledge and skills for teaching Physiology and Pharmacology in under-graduate curriculum.

(e) No, Sir. The UGC has reported that it does not have any information in this regard.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.