

Compulsory teaching of environmental studies

2656. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether teaching of the subject of environmental studies has been made compulsory by UGC at university and college levels across the country;

(b) if so, whether an effort has been made to check which universities and colleges are observing the same; and

(c) if so, whether it was considered proper to check if any lecturer on the subject of environmental studies is appointed there in the college or not?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition 860 of 1991 (M.C. Mehta vs Union of India and others), the University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed a Core Module Syllabus for Environmental Studies, of six months duration, for undergraduate courses and circulated it to the universities/institutes for implementation and compliance.

The UGC has reported that it has reminded the Vice Chancellors of Universities from time to time to implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has further reported that the Developments Grants have been stopped in those universities/institutes which have not implemented the course.

(c) Appointments of teaching staff and their placement in Universities and Colleges are undertaken by Universities/Colleges/State Governments. The UGC has laid down the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for The Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2010 prescribing minimum qualifications and selection procedure for appointment of teachers in Universities and Colleges. As per the Regulations, National Eligibility Test (NET) is a minimum eligibility condition for appointment of teachers. The NET is held twice in a year and Environmental Sciences is one of the subjects in which it is held.

KVs and JNVs in Maharashtra

†2657. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in Maharashtra particularly in Aurangabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.