

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the cases of stepping up of pay of senior teachers with respect to that of direct recruit junior teachers in various schools are settled in accordance with the instructions issued from time to time by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. At present, no such cases of stepping up of pay of teachers are pending in the said zone.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Harassment of SC/ST students

1256. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Ministry plans to take to reduce/remove harassment of various kinds caused to SC/ST students in the institutions of higher learning; and

(b) the time-frame for taking such steps?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development have taken several initiatives to check the incidents of harassment of all students, including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in the higher educational institutions of the country. Major initiatives are listed below:

- (i) UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012 and UGC (Grievance Redressal), Regulations, 2012 : These two Regulations of the UGC intend to give effect in letter and spirit to the provisions of the Constitution and other Statutory provisions and policies for prevention of discrimination on the grounds of caste and to safeguard the interests of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Regulations also seek to provide for advancement of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students through setting up of Equal Opportunity Cells in each Higher Educational Institution. The UGC also provides financial assistance to establish the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy to support focused research on the issue of social exclusion related to dalits, tribals and religious minorities.
- (ii) Equal Opportunity Centres: In order to make the colleges more responsive to the needs and constraints of the disadvantaged social groups, the University Grants Commission is giving Financial assistance to all Colleges/Universities which have been included under Sections 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 to establish Equal Opportunity Centres. The aim and objective of this Scheme

is to oversee the effective implementation of policies and programmes for disadvantaged groups, to provide guidance and counseling with respect to academic, financial, social and other matters and to enhance the diversity within the campus. At present, as many as 250 EOCs are functioning in various universities and 2252 in colleges.

- (iii) The All India Council for Technical Education (Establishment of Mechanism for Grievance Redressal) Regulations, 2012, provide for establishment of a grievance redressal committee in each technical institutions approved by the AICTE; and appointment of Ombudsman, by the Technical Universities for the purpose of redressal of grievances of the students, parents and others.
- (iv) The Indian Institutes of Technology have Disciplinary Action Committees to take immediate action if any complaint of caste-biased discrimination is received. They also have student mentors in various Department who help them in their academic and other problems by providing proper guidance and also bring to the notice of concerned authorities about their problem for timely address. In addition, there are Student Tutors who help them to cope up with their academic problems.

Enrolment ratio of higher education

1257. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the enrolment ratio of higher education is increased; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education (calculated for the age group of 18-23 years) is 20.4 during 2011-12 (Provisional) as compared to 19.4 during 2010-11.

Branch of AMU in Bihar

1258. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to start a branch of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) at Kishanganj in Bihar;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that land etc. has been made available for construction and development of the campus of this branch;
- (c) if so, the reasons for which development of the campus is being delayed; and