

Distance education centre of Mahatma Gandhi University

2383. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya is recognized by UGC;
- (b) whether the above university has got the approval of Distance Education Council (DEC) to run the distance education centres in Delhi and if so, the names of those centres;
- (c) whether YWCA, New Delhi is also an approved distance education centre of that university;
- (d) if so, whether this centre is approved for conducting the three year degree programme *viz* B.Sc. in Medical lab Technology of the University; and
- (e) the details of other universities and their distance education centres located in Delhi/NCR approved by DEC/DEB for the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir. Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU), Meghalaya is a Private University established by an Act (No. 6 of 2011) of the State Legislature of Meghalaya. The University is included in the list of Private Universities as maintained by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

(b) No, Sir. The erstwhile Distance Education Council (DEC) and now the UGC accords recognition to Universities/Institutions only and not to their distance education centres. No such centre of the above University has been approved by DEC.

(c) No, Sir. Neither the erstwhile DEC nor the UGC has given any such approval to YWCA, New Delhi as an approved distance education centre of MGU, Meghalaya.

(d) Do not arise.

(e) As per information made available by the Distance Education Bureau of UGC, no Private Universities have been accorded approval by DEC/DEB to run B.Sc programme in Medical Lab Technology through their Distance Education Centres.

Inclusion about North Eastern Region in Syllabus

2384. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to include the history, culture and geography about the North-Eastern Region in the school syllabi;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to make people in mainland part of the country aware about the people and culture of the region?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) Contents about various aspects of the North Eastern Region have been included in the textbooks of Social Science such as History, Geography and Political Science published by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) viz History classes – VII, IX, X and XII, Geography classes: VI to XII, Political Science classes: VI, VIII to XII. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) prescribes the curricula based on NCERT textbooks. The Board has also approved the project based learning in contexts of the North East States, Value Education Kit for creating awareness and sensitivity regarding North East students, Heritage India Quiz based upon the rich heritage of the North East and Science Exhibition focused in and around the situation particular to North Eastern Region like Bio-diversity.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has advised the Universities to incorporate the followings in the university curriculum:

- I. (a) Novels/Short stories from the North East.
(b) History of North East including personalities who participated in anti-colonial uprisings as well as freedom movement.
- II. Students from the other part of the country to spend some time in the North East so as to understand and appreciate culture of the area. Besides, regular cultural exchange between institutions in the North East and other areas be built in higher education system in the universities.

The North East Zone Cultural Centre, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture also organizes various programmes under its scheme namely, National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP) for awareness about the culture of the North Eastern Region.

Restructuring of school courses and curricula

2385. SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has any plans to restructure the courses and curricula of the school education in the country;