

Yoga and transcendental meditation in syllabus

†1183. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Yoga and transcendental meditation are being included in syllabus by University Grants Commission (UGC);
- (b) whether a circular has been issued to all the universities of the country in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Universities are autonomous in the matter of initiation of courses on Yoga and Meditation in the interest of students well-being. The University Grants Commission (UGC), in exercise of the powers under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956, has notified the degree of Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences (BNYS), with a minimum duration of 5 years and entry qualification being 10+2, which Universities can contemplate to offer. Further, the University Grants Commission (UGC) provides financial assistance to promote Yoga in Universities and Colleges. The UGC has informed that under its scheme "Development of Sports Infrastructure and equipment in Universities and Colleges" a model syllabus has been formulated in which there is a specific component on the subject of Yoga.

(b) The guidelines of the scheme are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/6483817_English-Guidelines-of-Sports.pdf and the model syllabus is at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/modelcurriculum/yoga.pdf>.

(c) Universities can apply to the UGC for financial assistance under this scheme.

Quality of primary and secondary education

1184. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the poor quality of primary and secondary education in the country;
- (b) whether Government plans to reform primary and secondary education syllabus and evaluation system;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.