

steps to ensure that all schools adhere to these guidelines. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan include strategies to provide teacher training to sensitize teachers on inclusion and non-discrimination and training of Headmasters/Principals for School Leadership so that they help establish inclusive schools. Curriculum and textbooks also emphasize value of equity and inclusion. Grievance redressal systems from grass root level to the National Council for Protection of Child Rights have also been set up by the State and Central Government to deal with such issues, under the RTE Act. Training of cooks and supervisory staff under the Mid Day Meal Programme, to deal with such issues have been especially undertaken and where such incidents have come to light, exemplary action against school administrators has been taken.

Stipulated period for grant of degree

1488. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission (Grant for Degree and other Awards by Universities) Regulation, 2008, prescribes that degree award date(s) shall be within 180 days of the date(s) by which the students are expected to qualify and become eligible for grant of degrees; and

(b) whether it is a fact that many Central Universities including the School of Open Learning (SOL) have not been issuing degrees/certificates to successful students within the stipulated period, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that UGC (Grant for Degree and other Awards by Universities) Regulations, 2008, prescribes that degree award date(s) shall be within 180 days of the date(s) by which the students are expected to qualify and become eligible for grant of degrees. The Regulations are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/regulations/regulation_awarddegree.pdf

(b) The UGC has informed that such data is not maintained centrally by it.

SC/ST students in Central Universities

1489. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many SC/ST students were studying and pursuing research in Central Universities during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16;