

Loss of study hours in JNU

1355. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any survey or review of the loss of study hours and impact on general academic level due to non-educational political activities of a certain group of students in Universities like Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU);

(b) if so, the details of study loss and damage to students' academic pursuits due to anti-national slogans in JNU; and

(c) what preventive measures are being taken to keep up the academic level in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and stop effectively anti-national activities in JNU?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has reported that the academic session was not affected due to such activities. Further, Jawaharlal Nehru University is a statutory autonomous institution established by an Act of Parliament and governed by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Act, 1966 and Statutes and the Ordinances framed thereunder and is competent to take action in academic and administrative matters of the University. Regarding anti-national activities, the Universities, being autonomous organisations are competent to deal with them, along with local authorities.

Centre of Excellence for Graphene at IIT-Madras

1356. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT-Madras is planning a Centre of Excellence for Graphene, a carbon derivative pursued by multinationals like IBM and Samsung in race for the next electronic gadget building block, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether IIT-Madras is eying internationally well-known universities in the UK like the Manchester University, University of Cambridge and University of Warwick and also holding discussions with a large industrial houses to be roped in as the anchor investor and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir. IIT Madras is planning to se-up a Centre of Excellence for Graphene Application Research. Some of the areas the Centre will work are:

- (i) Structural Composites
- (ii) Structural Health Monitoring
- (iii) EMI Shielding
- (iv) Fuel Cells
- (v) LED Display
- (vi) Nano Coolants
- (vii) Sensors and Wearable Services

(b) Presently, IIT Madras is in discussions with potential stakeholders for setting up this Centre.

Transgenders enrolled in higher educational institutions

1357. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether transgenders are facing discrimination and bullying due to their sexual identity after their induction in higher educational institutions across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of transgenders enrolled in higher educational institutions, State-wise;

(d) whether Government has taken any steps for complete inclusion of transgenders in these institutes by means of upgradation of infrastructure such as of unisex washrooms, sensitization of the teaching, non-teaching staff and students on campus; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) In order to address the various issues and problems faced by transgender community in Higher Educational Institutions with empathy and efficiency, UGC has issued a circular on 29.10.2014 to all the Vice-Chancellors of the universities requesting them to include a column for transgender category in all application forms/academic testimonials and all other relevant documents processed by them as well as by their affiliated colleges. The Commission has also requested universities to take other affirmative actions to get the transgender students adequately acclimatized without facing fear, stigma or shame. The Commission has also issued