

the country and give them an opportunity to interact and bond with their counterparts from different States.

Exemption from NET/SLET for appointment

2132. SHRINARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has exempted National Eligibility Test/ State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) for candidates having Ph.D who have registered themselves in Central/State Universities prior to 11th June, 2009, for appointment of Assistant Professors in colleges/universities;

(b) whether a full body meeting of University Grants Commission (UGC) has been held recently and if so, what are the decisions taken therein; and

(c) what are the criteria for appointment as a lecturer/Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC), in its 514th meeting held on 12th April, 2016 has decided that candidates who have been awarded/registered for Ph.D programme prior to July 11, 2009 shall be governed by the provisions of the then existing Ordinances/Bylaws/Regulations of the Institution awarding the degrees and they shall be exempted from the requirement of the minimum eligibility condition of National Eligibility Test (NET) /State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) /State Eligibility Test (SET) for recruitment and appointment of Assistant Professor or equivalent positions in Universities/ Colleges/Institutions subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:

- (i) Ph.D degree of the candidate awarded in regular mode only
 - (ii) Evaluation of the Ph.D. thesis by at least two external examiners
 - (iii) Candidate published two research papers out of which at least one in a refereed journal from out of his/her Ph.D. work
 - (iv) The candidate presented two papers in seminars/conferences from out of his/her Ph.D. work
 - (v) Open Ph.D. *viva voce* of the candidate had been conducted.
- (i) to (v) above are to be certified by the Vice-Chancellor/Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Dean (Academic Affairs)/ Dean (University Instructions)

This decision has been incorporated in the 3rd amendment to the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for appointment of teachers and other academic staff in universities and colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards of higher education) Regulations, 2010. The minimum qualifications for appointment as Assistant Professor are (i) good academic record, 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) at the Master's level; (ii) qualifying NET/SLET/SET; OR award of Ph.D Degree in accordance with the UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for award of Ph.D Degree) Regulations, 2009 or the subsequent regulations notified by the UGC; OR a Ph.D Degree awarded/registered prior to July 11, 2009 fulfilling the conditions approved by the Commission in its 514th meeting held on 12th April, 2016.

The Nigavekar Committee, appointed by the Government to examine issues related to attracting and retaining talented and quality manpower in the teaching profession, recommended for the adoption of modified Academic Performance Indicator (API) scores for appointment to the post of Professor and Associate Professor in Universities and Colleges. The recommendations have been incorporated in the 3rd amendment to the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for appointment of teachers and other academic staff in universities and colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards of higher education) Regulations, 2010.

In-house Grievance Redressal Mechanism for SC & ST students

2133. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the faculty members of IITs, Central Universities, Institutes of Higher Learning harbour deep prejudices against students belonging to SC and ST;
- (b) whether Government has constituted any in-house mechanism to resolve this issue; and
- (c) if so, details of 'in-house' mechanism existing in Central Universities, IITs, NITs, IIMs, and other Institutions of higher learning?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Robust monitoring mechanisms have been put in place in all the IITs to handle incidents of discrimination against the SC/ST students. This includes setting up the SC/ST liaison officer system that would receive, enquire and dispose of the complaints of such discrimination. All forms of ragging in the name of caste have been