

(b) Education being in the Concurrent List, it is for the State Governments to implement the directions of Hon'ble High Court.

**Recommendation of Vice-Chancellors' meeting**

1233. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vice-Chancellors' meeting was held in February, 2016;

(b) if so, details of agenda items that have been discussed and the conclusions arrived at;

(c) what action the Ministry has taken on the decisions taken in the above meeting and how many of the recommendations have been implemented so far, whether discussions on vacancies of VCs was held in the meeting; and

(d) if so, what is the roadmap finalized to appoint VCs in various Central institutions and how the Ministry is going to persuade the States to appoint VCs in State Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting with Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities was held on 18th February, 2016.

(b) and (c) The matters related to promotion of equity, strengthening of grievance redressal system, sensitization of University Administrators towards handling issues faced by students of disadvantaged sections, need of counseling of youth, adequate representation of weaker sections in the statutory bodies, prevention of sexual harassment, etc, were discussed. However, the issue of appointment of Vice-Chancellors in Central Universities was not included in the agenda of the said meeting.

The Vice Chancellors had *inter alia* passed the resolution to institutionalize peer-assisted learning through an active mentoring system, to commence cost effective and transparent online admission process, to take steps to increase Gross Enrollment Ratio to 30%, to introduce new and innovative courses, to ensure instructions in English and an Indian language as applicable to the State, counseling of students by experts, to institutionalize a suitable grievance redressal mechanism and to appoint an Anti-Discrimination Officer, to ensure a healthy, safe and congenial work environment for women, students, staff and faculty and to inculcate a spirit of dignity of labour among the youth, etc. Central Universities, which are autonomous bodies, are competent to take action on these resolutions with the approvals of their statutory bodies.

(d) At present, there are 41 Central Universities under the purview of this Ministry and the Vice-Chancellor's posts are vacant only in three Central Universities. This Ministry has no role in appointment of Vice-Chancellors in State Universities.

**Recommendation of UNICEF for pre-school education**

†1234. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to United Nation Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report which says that more than six lakh children aged between 6 to 13 do not go to school;

(b) whether UNICEF has recommended inclusion of pre-school education in the new education policy and provision for unrestricted progression upto class tenth instead of class eighth;

(c) whether only about half of the children belonging to Scheduled Castes and poor families attend pre-schooling in Anganwadi; and

(d) if so, steps being taken to send all the children in the schools and Anganwadis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) As per the United Nation Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report titled 'South Asia Regional Study covering Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, 2014' 1.19 crore children in the age group of 6 to 13 years are out of school. However, to track out of school children in the age group of 6 to 13 years, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) commissioned three independent surveys according to which 134.59 lakh children were estimated to be out of school in 2005, and the figure came down to 81.50 lakh in 2009 and 60.64 lakh in 2014.

(b) As per data on consultations on proposed new education policy, available with MHRD, there is no record of any recommendation from UNICEF regarding inclusion of pre-school education in the new education policy or regarding provision for unrestricted progression upto class tenth instead of class eighth.

(c) and (d) Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development are intended to provide Early Childhood Education. ICDS Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and has been universalized to cover 14 lakh habitations through 13.50 lakh Anganwadi Centres and about 3.50 crore children in the 3 to 6 years age

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.