

**Rising of criminal incidents against SC students**

†1257. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that criminal incidents against students belonging to scheduled castes are constantly rising in the educational institutions in the last two years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is considering to amend the 'Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act' in order to provide protection to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in view of such rising incidents in educational institutions, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) Law and Order is a State subject and data on criminal incidents against students belonging to Scheduled Castes is not Centrally maintained. The Government of India and University Grants Commission (UGC) have issued several instructions to all State Governments and Centrally Funded Educational Institutions to curb discrimination of any kind against any section of students. In order to check discrimination and harassment of any section of students and to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism, the UGC has formulated the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012 and the UGC (Grievance Redressal), Regulations, 2012.

A Conference of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities was held on 18.02.2016 wherein Vice Chancellors were asked to be vigilant and to ensure that the students from these categories are not put to any disadvantage or hardship.

(b) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 as amended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015 and enforced with effect from 26.1.2016, *inter-alia*, relates to punishment for obstructing or preventing a member of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes from entering any educational institution. At present, there is no proposal to further amend this Act.

**Approval of contents of TV programmes**

1258. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the Television (TV) channels to declare the category of contents of the programmes at the time of applying for registration of approval for telecasting programmes;

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.