

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) It has been reported that 911 permanent teaching posts were vacant in the University of Delhi as on 01.10.2016. However, the University has hired *ad-hoc* and guest faculties in order to ensure that studies of the students are not affected.

(b) Occurring of vacancies and filling up is a continuous process. The onus of filling up of the posts lies on the University being an autonomous body created under an Act of Parliament. However, the University Grants Commission is continuously monitoring it with the University. The issue has also been discussed in a meeting of Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development with the Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities on 6th October, 2016 at Varanasi and they have been requested to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest.

**Study to assess mental strength of students for stress handling**

216. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a spate of suicides by students in central universities across the country has been witnessed, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the mental strength of students and their ability to handle stress in higher education, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) One Ph.D Scholar in University of Hyderabad and another in Central University of Rajasthan have committed suicide during the last academic session.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has formulated 'Guidelines on Safety of Students on and off Campuses of Higher Educational Institutions' which are available on UGC website ([www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in)) and these were communicated to all universities in April, 2015. As per these guidelines, all the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) should put in place a broad-based "Students Counselling System" for the effective redressal of problems and challenges faced by students. These guidelines were again reiterated on 27th January, 2016, requesting all Central Universities to create the Students Counselling Centre in the University and the affiliated colleges where the services of a trained psychologist may be used as and where required.