

admission of the student in his/her presence and return them immediately after satisfying themselves about their authenticity and veracity, keeping their copies self-attested by student for record. This provision in the notification along with others would benefit a number of students who are unable to withdraw admission from the institutes for better prospects due to the retention of their original certificates. As per the provisions made in that notification, no HEI shall make it mandatory for applicants to purchase institutional prospectus any time during the course of the program of study. Purchasing prospectus shall be the personal choice of the student and he/she will have rights to decide against it in case he/she wishes to access the same information from institutional website. The notification prescribes adoption of standard operating procedures in the matters relating to the verification of certificates and testimonials with a view to prohibit coercive and profiteering institutional practices, if any, at the time of admission. This move will also enable students to explore multiple opportunities and choices in terms of their academic career.

UGC notification on admission to M.Phil and Ph.D Courses

1641. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission notification with regard to M.Phil and Ph.D admissions is being protested by the students' unions of various universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the students' unions have requested the UGC for roll back of the notification as it is detrimental to the students and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stand of UGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has intimated that no protest petition has been received by it from Student Union of any university. However, it has intimated that there was a report of agitation of the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi on certain provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for the award of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree) Regulation, 2016.

As per the UGC Act, 1956, the UGC is responsible for promotion and co-ordination of University education, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities. In order to maintain the quality

of Research and to avoid sub-standard research degrees, UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for the award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree) Regulations, 2016 have been notified. The UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for the award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree) Regulations, 2016, *inter alia*, lays down detailed eligibility criteria for admission into M.Phil/Ph.D Programme, duration of such programme, procedure of admission, allocation of research supervisor, course work requirement, setting up of Research Advisory Committee etc. to provide a facilitative environment for carrying out quality academic research in Higher Education. These Regulations are mandatory in nature and are applicable to all Universities.

Children falling ill after Mid-Day Meals

1642. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of children falling ill after eating mid-day meals during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government has conducted any inquiry into such cases;

(c) if so, the details and the outcomes thereof;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the meal providers and officials involved in such cases and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has announced any compensation to the parents of such children; and

(f) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (f) A total number of 67 incidents of children falling ill after eating mid-day meal have been reported by various States and Union Territories during the last three years and the current year. Respective State Governments/UT Administrations were requested to furnish Action Taken Report (ATR) in the matter. As per ATRs received from States/UTs, action such as issuing warning against the official responsible, terminating the contract of concerned NGOs/Organisations, initiating criminal proceedings and imposing penalties against the defaulting persons/organisations have been taken up by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. The State/UT-wise details of incidents of children falling ill after eating mid-day meals and action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement.