

**Lecturers for environmental studies**

†64. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several universities and colleges do not have the lecturers of environmental studies which is one of the compulsory subjects taught therein;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of guidelines for teaching the subject of environmental studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRANATH PANDEY): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court (SC) of India, in its judgment dated 22.11.1991, had directed that through the medium of education, awareness of environment and its problem related to pollution should be taught as a Compulsory subject. As per the directives of the Hon'ble SC, the University Grants Commission (UGC) had prepared a six months module syllabus for Environmental Studies for implementation at Under Graduate courses in Universities and instructed Universities to strictly comply with the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further, UGC has asked Universities and Affiliated Colleges/ Institutes to entrust the task of teaching the module on Environmental Studies with the teachers who fulfil the necessary qualifications as laid down by it.

Appointment of Lecturers and assigning them the task of teaching Environmental Studies to the students come under the purview of respective Universities/ Institutes.

**Funds for research and development**

65. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India, as compared to other developing countries, spends less on research and development which is the most important area to be taken to improve our situation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of funds given to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) whose focus is on research and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRANATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) As per the global

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.