

Vice Chancellors of three State Universities namely Rawenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha, Ch. Ranbir Singh University, Jind, Haryana and Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. The complaints have been forwarded to Governor/Chancellor of the concerned Universities for taking appropriate action in the matter.

Counselling system for admission process

2629. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the universities to start an elaborate counselling system to streamline the admission process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made it clear that the seats in universities has to be filled through an informed process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it has issued notification under section 12 (j) of UGC Act, 1956 on Remittance and Refund of Fees and other Student Centric Issues on 6th December, 2016. The objective of this notification is to prohibit coercive and profiteering institutional practices in the matters related to verification of certificates and testimonials at the time of admission, remittance of fees and refund thereof in case of cancellation of admission and other such student-centric issues. It is also aimed at curbing coercive and profiteering institutional practices that directly and indirectly constrain the fundamental rights of students to explore multiple opportunities and choices in terms of their academic career. The notification is available at www.ugc.ac.in/pdf/news/5681274_Fee-Refund-Notification.pdf

Further, all universities shall mandatorily constitute a “Grievance Redressal Committee” (GRC) as mandated by UGC (Grievance Redressal) Regulations, 2012 to address and effectively resolve complaints, representations and grievances of students.

Menace of Predatory/Fake Journals in India

2630. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a list of fake or predatory journals in the country;

(b) if so, the list of predatory journals and the companies that have been identified;

(c) whether Government has prepared a comprehensive plan to deal with the menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it has appointed a Standing Committee on Notification on Journals. One of the tasks assigned to the Committee is to prepare a consolidated list of predatory/questionable journals and their publishers. The following sources of information are considered for preparing this list:

- (i) Beall's list of predatory journals
- (ii) Blacklist-Cabell's International
- (iii) Journals/publishers dropped by Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- (iv) Journals dropped by Scopus and Web of Science
- (v) Predatory journals reported in various newspapers
- (vi) Information supplied by faculty and research scholars through emails / letters

Detailed information on the removed journals is available at: https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/4305_Journals.pdf

(c) to (e) Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has directed UGC *vide* letter dated 27th July, 2018 to issue instructions to all Vice-Chancellors of Central/State/Deemed to be Universities to review the recommendations made in the past to the UGC for inclusion of certain journals. Only those journals which are published after due peer review of the articles shall be recommended. If any sub-standard/predatory journals are found in the list recommended by the Vice-Chancellors that would be held personally against the Vice-Chancellor concerned.

The UGC's Standing Committee on Notification on Journals has decided that the recommendation portal will be opened once every year and the universities will be asked to recommend journals. However, from this year onwards, every recommendation submitted by the universities will be re-verified under the supervision of Standing Committee on Notification of Journals to ascertain that only good-quality journals are included in the UGC-approved List with correct publication details.