

**Problems of girls/women living in university campuses**

264. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has felt any need to review the existing arrangements, identify loopholes and inadequacies and to formulate remedial measures to address the concerns of all girls and women and of the youth who study and live in the country's numerous and diverse university campuses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it has framed guidelines on Safety of Students on and off Campuses of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). As per UGC guidelines, HEIs should mandatorily put in place a broad-based “Students Counseling System” for the effective management of problems and challenges faced by students. It is a unique, interactive and target-oriented system, involving students, teachers and parents, resolved to address common students concerns such as anxiety, stress, fear of change and failure to homesickness and a slew of academic worries. HEIs should also make self defense for women mandatory component of extra-curricular activities. Further, it is incumbent upon HEIs to institute a mechanism to address issues/concerns of all girls and women in HEIs. The aforesaid guidelines may be seen at [https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdf/news/4006064\\_Safety-of-Students-Guidelines.pdf](https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdf/news/4006064_Safety-of-Students-Guidelines.pdf)

**Lateral entry in the rank of Joint Secretaries**

265. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has opened the Joint Secretaries' posts in Ministries for lateral entry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this has created anger among the civil service community; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the concerns expressed by them?