THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Government is working towards increasing the spending on research and innovation in the country through the creation of National Research Foundation as per its Budget Announcement in 2019-20.

(c) and (d) As per information received from Department of Science and Technology, details of Total expenditure incurred on Research and Development (R&D) by the Centre and percentage of same in GDP in the last five years is given as under:

Year	Total Expenditure in R & D (in ₹ cr.)	Percentage of GDP Spent on R & D
2014-15	48607.73	0.39
2015-16	52982.35	0.38
2016-17	57107.59	0.37
2017-18	64704.35	0.38
2018-19*	70542.24	0.37

*estimated

Maternity, paternity and childcare benefits in Higher Educational Institutes

1669. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rules, regulations, guidelines, instruction manuals applicable regarding maternity, paternity and childcare benefits in Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs);

(b) which workers in HEIs employed directly or by third parties are excluded from these benefits;

(c) whether Ministry has conducted or commissioned any study of implementation of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 in HEIs in India;

(d) year-wise details of male and female, permanent and temporary teachers and non-teaching staff (Group A, B, C, and D), as well as students whose applications were received, approved or rejected, details of leave availed; and

(e) amount paid as benefits during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) The Central Government has notified University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2018 wherein clause 8.4 of the said regulations has laid down provisions for maternity, paternity and childcare benefits applicable to all Universities and colleges. Further, UGC has asked all the Central Universities to implement the provisions of Maternity Benefit Act (Amendment) 2017. A copy of the said UGC regulations is available at *https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/4033931_UGC-Regulation_min _ualification_Jul2018.pdf.* The Government of India has amended the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 with Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 for its effective implementation in Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs).

(d) and (e) No such data is maintained centrally.

Accountability of officers in Central Universities

1670. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the mechanisms to ensure accountability of top administrative officers—Vice Chancellors, Finance Officers, Registrars etc. of Central Universities (CU) and Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs);

(b) the number of complaints of alleged corruption, financial irregularities, sexual harassment, caste discrimination and misconduct levelled against the Vice- Chancellors and other top officials of various CU and other HEIs received by the MHRD and the UGC since 2014, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the action(s) taken by the MHRD and the UGC on these complaints, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) Central Universities (CU) and Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) under purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) are autonomous institutions established under the respective Act of Parliament and are governed by their own Acts, Statutes, Ordinances etc. and Regulations made thereunder