(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

and are competent to take action in their academic and administrative matters. In order to ensure accountability, the accounts of these institutions are audited and laid before both the Houses of Parliament. Whenever any irregularity, complaint, misconduct etc. in respect of officers other than Vice Chancellors/Directors is received, necessary action as per extant and applicable Rules and Regulations is taken by the competent authority of the concerned CUs/HEIs. The complaint against Vice Chancellors/Directors are dealt in the MHRD as per Central Vigilance. Commission (CVC) guidelines and extant instructions of Government of India. Hon'ble President of India is the Visitor of all CUs and HEIs. Whenever the complaint is supported by substantive evidence, the facts of the case are brought to the notice of the Visitor for seeking his decision either for constitution of a Fact Finding Inquiry Committee or if it relates to a proceeding, then for annulling the proceeding. MHRD has constituted a Standing Committee to look into appeals/representations relating to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

AI for taking attendance

1671. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some State Governments have started using facial recognition Artificial Intelligence Application to take attendance in educational institutions including schools;

(b) whether Government intends to introduce any such AI for monitoring attendance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) Since Government of India has not issued any such instruction to this effect, it does not have any specific information about use of facial recognition Artificial Intelligence Application for taking attendance in educational institutions including schools by State Governments.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) Does not arise.