

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Academic excellence is a broader and dynamic concept which operates at different levels. Issues relating to improvement of quality of education, promoting research and innovation, faculty development, collaboration with the industry and research laboratories, effective use of technology in teaching-learning process, mandatory accreditation, etc. are periodically reviewed with Vice Chancellors of Central Universities by University Grants Commission (UGC) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

Central Universities are statutory autonomous organizations and they are free to explore different avenues towards academic excellence. Besides, all Central Universities are required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Administrative Ministry or Department, spelling out clearly performance parameters, output targets in terms of details of programme of work and qualitative improvement in output, along with commensurate input requirements.

To encourage research and development in the country, Ministry implements various schemes such as Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT), Scheme for Trans-Disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Centres with Potential for Excellence in a Particular Area (CPEPA) etc.

Reservation in faculty positions of Central Universities

†545. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representation of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/ Other Backward Classes in the upper rungs of faculty positions in central educational institutes/universities is low;

(b) if so, the grade-wise and category-wise details of the representation of said groups in the grades from Assistant Professor to Professor *vis-a-vis* General/ unreserved category; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for less representation of the said groups in the upper rungs and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) The grade-wise and category-wise number of filled in faculty posts of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes/Unreserved category in respect of 40 Central Universities and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development are given hereunder:—

(As on 01.01.2020)

Category of the Post	Number of Filled Faculty Posts			
	Gen	SC	ST	OBC
Central Universities				
Professor	951	51	8	9
Associate Professor	2352	141	40	31
Assistant Professor	5055	975	463	1267
IGNOU				
Professor	18	2	0	0
Associate Professor	68	6	2	0
Assistant Professor	119	19	11	9

(c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued instructions from time to time to all these Central Universities for (i) implementation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes reservation policy of the Government/UGC; (ii) display of reservation roster on University Website and (iii) filling up of remaining identified backlog reserved vacancies of these categories in teaching posts.

To uphold the Constitutional Provisions for safeguarding the interests of SCs/STs and OBCs, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers Cadre) Ordinance, 2019 was promulgated on 07.03.2019. The same was subsequently repealed and Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers Cadre) Act, 2019 was

notified on 09.07.2019 to ensure preparation of rosters by considering the University as a 'Unit'.

UGC has prepared the Guidelines for Recruitment of Faculty in Universities, Colleges and Institutions Deemed to be Universities outlining the selection procedure and the time frame for recruitment which has been circulated to all Universities on 4th June, 2019 for its adherence. The Universities have also been requested to take steps to ensure that the vacancies in the University as well as in the Colleges affiliated to University are filled up at the earliest. Further, UGC again requested on 31st July, 2019, 7th August, 2019, 5th September, 2019 and 22nd October, 2019 to ensure that vacant positions in University as well as colleges affiliated to university are filled at the earliest and the status of the recruitment process is uploaded on the University Activity Monitoring Portal of UGC.

Besides this, a number of other steps taken to fill up the vacant teaching posts include regular monitoring by Ministry/UGC, review during various meetings including Visitor's Conference, providing of Visitor's nominees for Selection Committees, increase in age of superannuation to 65 years, re-employment of retired teachers beyond the age of 65 years, etc.

Mid-day meals in Government schools

546. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mid-day meals in Government schools failed to meet the set standards of nutritional values and also the community kitchens introduced to make a basic balanced meal accessible to the poor might have at times led to diseases and infections due to compromised hygienic conditions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for effective implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Mid Day Meal is provided in Government schools as per the standards of nutritional values. However, a total of 13 complaints were reported regarding poor quality of food in implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme during the last two years and current year. Respective State Governments and Union