

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2581
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021

Development of Women Studies Centres

2581 Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian universities under UGC have planned for development of Women Studies Centres in Indian universities and colleges for promoting equality and empowerment of women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Education Policy 2020 mentions anything about the Centres for Women Studies which have significant contribution for empowering women in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission has informed that scheme of "Development of Women's Studies in Indian Universities and Colleges" is run by UGC for promoting equality and empowerment of women. The Scheme envisages financial assistance to Universities and Colleges for setting up centres for Women's Studies for undertaking research, develop curricula and organize training and extension work in areas including gender equity, economic self-reliance of women and education for girls. Details of the scheme are available at https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/3849681_Guidelines-for-Womens-Studies-Centres-for-Universities-and-Colleges-05-03-2019.pdf. Presently 159 Women's Studies Centres have been established in various Universities and Colleges under this scheme.

(c) & (d): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognizes the special and critical role that women play in society and in shaping social mores and states that providing quality education to girls is the best way to increase the education levels for these Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), not just in the present but also in future generations. The NEP 2020 recommends that the policies and schemes designed to include students should be especially targeted towards girls in these SEDGs.
