

Power to Foreign Universities

2146. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC would be amending its statute to power over the foreign universities which have branches in the country;

(b) if so, what prompted the UGC to think in this direction;

(c) whether the UGC has received complaints from student's parents against foreign institutes in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) According to the information provided by UGC, in the recent past, there has been a spurt in the activities of foreign educational institutions operating in India many of which are substandard. The influx of such foreign educational institutions/universities has, therefore, prompted the University Grants Commission (UGC) to make regulations to regulate their entry and operation in India.

At present, UGC Act, 1956, does not empower the UGC to frame such regulations. The proposed regulations, in order to be effective, necessitate certain amendments in the UGC Act. Necessary amendments to the UGC Act are under consideration of Government. However, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued regulations for entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions imparting technical education in India.

Objectives of National and State Women's Commissions

2147. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives of the National and State Women's Commissions;

(b) the details of the State Women's Commissions in the country;

(c) whether the NWC is endowed with statutory powers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government consider taking measures for granting statutory powers to the Commission in order to make the Commission more effective;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) The objectives of National Commission for Women (NCW) are reflected in the functions of the Commission as laid down in section 10(1) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 extracts of which are given in the enclosed statement (*See below*). Setting up of State Women Commissions comes within the purview of the State Governments; therefore, the details of their objectives are decided by the respective State Governments.

(b) All the States except the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttaranchal have constituted state level women commissions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The NCW is a statutory body as it has been constituted under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Statement

Objectives of National and State Women's Commissions

[Extracts of section 10(1) of National Commission for Women Act, 1990 on functions of National Commission for Women]

10. Function of the Commission —(1) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:—

- (a) investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws;
- (b) present to the Central Government, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;

- (c) make in such reports recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the conditions of women by the Union or any State;
- (d) review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations;
- (e) take up the cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and of other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities;
- (f) look into complaints and take *suo moto* notice of matters relating to—
 - (i) deprivation of women's rights;
 - (ii) non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development.
 - (iii) non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women and take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities;
- (g) call for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women and identify the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal;
- (h) undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement, such as, lack of access to housing and basic services, inadequate support services and technologies for reducing drudgery and occupational health hazards and for increasing their productivity;
- (i) participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of women;

- (j) evaluate the progress of the development of women under the Union and any State;
- (k) inspect or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home, women's institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise, and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary;
- (l) fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women;
- (m) make periodical reports to the Government on any matter pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil;
- (n) any other matter which may be referred to it by the Central Government.

**Implementation of Guidelines of Supreme Court
in Vishakha Case**

2148. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of guidelines laid down by the hon'ble Supreme Court in 1998 in the Vishakha case;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the National Commission for Women has brought the implementation of guidelines to the notice of Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action proposed by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) A Central Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court to prevent sexual harassment at workplace. The Committee meets periodically.