

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2143

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

ANTI-RAGGING MEASURES

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of ragging being practiced in the educational institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of cases reported including loss of lives and injuries suffered during the last three years; State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in each of these cases;
- (d) whether any Committee has been constituted to suggest the measures to prevent ragging in higher educational institutions;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the main recommendations made by the Committee in this regard; and
- (f) the follow-up action taken by the Government to prevent ragging in the educational institutions in view of these recommendations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c) Based on information obtained from the National Anti Ragging Helpline established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 350 complaints of ragging have been registered through Helpline during the current academic year. No information on incidents of ragging was being maintained centrally prior to the launch of the National Anti-Ragging Helpline on 20th June, 2009 under the "UGC regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009". A total number of 18 complaints communicated to the institutions have been responded by the concerned institutions and accordingly closed by the helpline.

(d) & (e) In the matter of University of Kerala vs. Council of Principals of Colleges and others, Supreme Court of India had constituted a Committee on 5.12.2006 to give suggestions on the means to be adopted to prevent ragging in educational institutions. The constitution of the Committee is at Annexure. The report of the committee alongwith its recommendations has been placed at the Ministry's website <http://education.nic.in/HigherEdu/RaggingReport.pdf>.

(f) The Government has issued directions to regulatory bodies to implement major recommendations made by the Committee headed by Dr. R. K. Raghavan to look into the issue of ragging and suggest means of prevention in educational institutions. This Ministry has also requested the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all State Governments/Union Territories to comply with the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court of India.

The University Grants Commission has notified, on 17th June, 2009, its regulation namely "The UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009". The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Dental Council of India have also notified anti-ragging regulation on 01-07-2009 and 13-08-2009 respectively. The "UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009", are being suitably adopted by the other statutory councils such as the Medical Council of India, Indian Nursing Council under each Act governing such Councils. Institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology which do not come under purview of the UGC or under any of the statutory councils have also been advised to adopt the UGC regulations with appropriate modifications.

The regulations require higher educational institutions to take effective steps in order to sensitize students on the dehumanizing effects of ragging and generate awareness among all 'stakeholders' regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. The administrative action against the students found indulging in or abetting ragging is taken by the concerned higher educational institution while the criminal action, if any, is taken by the district administration. The Regulations also provide for action against an institution or college by the affiliating University that fails to curb ragging effectively. Administrative action can be taken against a member of the faculty or staff, including the Principal, where a lapse is attributable in the matter of reporting or taking prompt action to prevent an incident of ragging or display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging. This action is to be taken by the concerned appointing authority of the institution. Therefore, the initial action in incidents of ragging against the students or Principal is to be taken by the concerned institution and by the affiliating University. The statutory regulatory bodies i.e. the UGC or the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), can proceed against an institution which fails to curb ragging effectively by taking any one or more of the following steps, namely, withdrawal of declaration of fitness to receive grants under section 12B of the UGC Act, withholding any grant allocated, declaring the institution ineligible for consideration for any assistance under any of the general or special assistance programmes, informing the general public, including potential candidates for admission, through a notice declaring that the institution does not possess the minimum academic standards.

The toll free anti-ragging "Helpline" mentioned in reply to part (a) herein was launched on 20th June, 2009 with Call Centre facilities in English, Hindi and regional languages (Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Marathi, Oriya, Assamese, Gujarathi and Bengali) to begin with, for helping victims of ragging, besides facilitating effective action in respect of such incidents.