

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
DISSECTION OF ANIMALS
Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission U.G.C. has set up an Expert Committee to ban dissection of animals in educational institutions;
- (b) if so, the details of the suggestions/ recommendations made by the said Committee;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any decision for banning dissection of animals being conducted for experiments in the colleges and universities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): Yes Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. H.A. Ranganath to consider discontinuation of dissection of animals for zoology/Life Sciences.

(b): Committee has recommended immediate action points and long term action plan. It has recommended that dissection of animals for class work to be replaced in a phased manner with the acquisition of appropriate technology and the development of human resource for the same. In addition, the Committee had recommended that all Higher Education Institutions to strictly adhere to the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; all Higher Education Institutions to establish " Dissection Monitoring Committees" (DMC) to look into the utilization of animals and UGC to provide guidelines for the same; for both UG and PG programmes , there shall be reduction in the number of animals for dissection and experimentation as well as in the number of species with all ethical considerations. Preference shall be given to laboratory bred animal models; for UG: 'only one species' to be adopted for 'demonstration only' by the faculty and 'students should not do any dissection'. In lieu of this, Curriculum must be developed to encourage students to take up field work; for PG: students shall have the option to perform dissection of 'selected species' as per the curriculum or have a project related to biodiversity/ biosystematics etc.

The long term action plan includes human resource development through training programmes towards adopting alternative modalities for animal dissection; software development for alternative modalities for animal dissection, experimentation and dissection; empowering Zoology/ Life Sciences departments with appropriate information communication technology (ICT) for implementing the above recommendations; curriculum related to invertebrate/vertebrate etc. to be enriched with bio-systematics, population dynamics, evolution and bio-diversity etc.

(c) & (d): The recommendations were approved and the guidelines were issued by UGC to Universities and Colleges for implementation. These guidelines are applicable to all Departments in universities and colleges which deal animals in teaching and learning. The guidelines are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/notices/guidelines_animaldissection.pdf .

(e): Does not arise.