

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:185
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
MANUSMRITI SHLOKAS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) Whether Manusmriti is being taught in Sanskrit department in some colleges of University of Delhi as a part of the regular syllabus;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that shlokas denigrating some communities, especially dalit community are also being taught in the above University;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is planning to withdraw Manusmriti from syllabus in University of Delhi and elsewhere wherever it is being taught; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the first 40 verses of Chapter II of Manusmriti have been prescribed in the 'Discipline Sanskrit Course' for the students of B.A. programme, whereas the students of M.A. (Sanskrit), who opt for the optional Group E (Dharma Shastra) as their option, are required to study the entire Manusmriti. A couple of the verses of Manusmriti may be said to reflect social biases of that time.

(d) & (e): The University of Delhi is a statutory autonomous body established by an Act of Parliament and governed by the Delhi University Act, 1922 and the Statutes and the Ordinances framed thereunder. Under the Act, the University is competent to finalize syllabus for a particular course of study with the approval of its statutory bodies and the Ministry has no role to play in this regard. The University has informed that Manusmriti is an important text for the study of Jurisprudence and hierarchical organizations of the society in vogue in Manu's time. The study of such a text is important in the sense that it helps students appreciate their relevance or otherwise in the modern context. The University has maintained that through exposure to a variety of diverse texts, it seeks to inculcate in its students the values of tolerance, mutual respect, equality, social justice and expects its students to adopt a critical approach to such sections of the text as may be detrimental to the interests and dignity of others.