

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2971

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012

AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR ADOLESCENT SCHOOL GOING GIRLS

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

- (a) whether the number of public funded national universities have entered into a confidential Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nestle for nutrition awareness programmes for adolescent school-going girls in the Government-run village schools;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Nestle is using the public education system for their brand promotion;
- (d) if so, whether the MoU is a clear case of conflict between public and corporate interests;
- (e) if so, the response of the Central Government thereon; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Central Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Universities are autonomous entities and may enter into collaborative arrangements with private companies for furtherance of objectives of learning and research. There have been reports in print and electronic media indicating that food company Nestle India Limited has entered into Public Private Partnership with four public funded educational institutions namely Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, University of Mysore, Karnataka, Gobind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, and National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Karnal. All the Universities except NDRI, Karnal are State owned and funded by the respective State Governments. The NDRI, Karnal is a Deemed to be University under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture).

(c) to (f): NDRI has reported that Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has formulated a policy covering Public Private Partnership (PPP) between publicly funded institutions and commercial food manufacturers with regard to (i) Technology development (ii) Technology refinement and (iii) Technology transfer for commercialization. Publicly funded institutions such as NDRI can get into PPP with private dairy processors/ food manufacturers so as to develop new technology or for commercialization of newly developed technologies. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, University of Mysore, Karnataka, Gobind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, and National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal have reported that they have entered into MOUs/ agreements with Nestle India Limited to work on a project "Nutritional Awareness Programme" as a part of Nestle 'Healthy Kids' Global Program to create health nutritional awareness among students, specially from rural areas. The programme, inter-alia, also provides to cover students of age group 13-17 belonging to Class IX to XII. During the awareness programme, the students are to undergo two hours in each week for a period of 6 weeks. The total cost of the project is to be borne by Nestle India Limited. The NDRI has further reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was only for the year 2010 and it has not entered into any such MoU with Nestle after 2010.