

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2841
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012
DISCRIMINATION AMONG STUDENTS
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether complaints of harassment and discrimination of students from NE region have been reported in different educational centres of the country;
- (b) if so, whether some of such NE students have also lost their lives and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address these issues immediately and suitably?

Answer

The Government has taken several initiatives to control such harassment in the educational institutions of the country. The Minister of Human Resource Development has a meeting on 22nd May, 2012 in which Commissioner of Delhi Police along with his senior officers and representatives from the North Eastern States were present, at this meeting it was decided to take the following action :

- (i) Commissioner, Delhi Police, or a senior officer nominated by him, would meet the members of NE community once every quarter.
- (ii) Delhi Police will appoint nodal officers consisting of senior police officials, who have worked in the NE and are sensitive to their culture, to interact with NE students and employees, whose problems have not been solved through the normal course. Contact numbers of such officers will be made available to the members of NE community.
- (iii) The representatives of NE States will form a formal/ an informal body and convey the names, addresses and telephone numbers of such members for interaction with the Delhi Police.
- (iv) Commissioner, Delhi Police, assured that junior police officers posted in localities having a sizeable NE population will undergo a special sensitization programme with the help of member from NE community as resource persons,
- (v) MHRD will write to all the universities located in Delhi requesting them to strengthen their student counselling/welfare cell keeping in mind the cultural sensitivities of the North-Eastern people.

In pursuance of this decision, the Delhi Police has reported that 7 District Additional Commissioners of Police/Deputy Commissioners of Police of Delhi Police, where students and people from North Eastern States are residing in majority, have been appointed as Nodal Officers in order to address their problems. The Nodal Offices will hold bi-monthly meetings in their areas with the students/residents from North East States in Delhi. Joint Commissioner/Training, Delhi Police has also been appointed as Coordinator to organize sensitization programme for these Nodal Officers and to review the action taken by them.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has also written to all Universities located in Delhi to ensure that such discrimination and harassment is prevented and a congenial atmosphere is created in which students from North East feel safe and secure.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also notified a AICTE (Establishment of Mechanism for Grievance Redressal) Regulations, 2012 to provide a mechanism to the aggrieved student for redressal of their grievances regarding harassment and victimization. Aggrieved student may approach for redressal of his grievances to the Grievance Redressal committee constituted by the Vice Chancellor of the affiliating University for an individual technical institutions or a group of technical institution. Aggrieved student may also approach to the Ombudsman appointed by the affiliating University for seeking redressal of grievances for any kind of harassment and victimization.

A proposal for starting a Helpline exclusively for students from North Eastern Region is under consideration of the University Grants Commission.

Education being in the Concurrent List, majority of educational institutions are under the purview of the State Governments. The complaints pertaining to the educational institutions falling under the purview of the State Governments are forwarded to the respective State Governments for redressal. Centrally Funded Educational Institutions (CFEIs) are autonomous bodies and therefore, as and when any such complaint is received, the same is forwarded to the concerned CFEI for appropriate action in the matter.

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

(a): Students/Associations from the North Eastern States have brought to the notice of this Ministry the problems being faced by students and employees from North Eastern Region working in Delhi.

(b) : The All `India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has reported that a media report has appeared in the Newspaper regarding death of Mr. Richard Loitham, a student of Acharya`s NRV School of Architecture, Bangalore. A Factual Report has been obtained from the Institute. In their factual report, the Institute has stated that Shri Richard Loitham had died in the road accident and the matter is with the local police for investigation.

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