

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:582

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

TASK FORCE FOR GIRL STUDENTS AND WOMEN EMPLOYEES

Singh Shri Bhola; Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a task force of top academics to review the safety/security arrangements of the girl students and women employees in the higher educational institutions in the country including universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the jurisdiction of the task force;
- (c) whether the UGC has asked the task force to suggest ways to incorporate gender education into curriculum across varsity courses and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the said task force is likely to submit its report?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) A Task Force comprising of experts and academics, under the chairpersonship of Prof. Meenakshi Gopinath, has been constituted on 8th January, 2013 by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to review the existing arrangements that are in place on the campuses of higher educational institutions to ensure the freedom, safety and security of girls and women in particular and the youth in general. The Task Force is required to identify shortcomings in the existing system, evaluate grievance redressal mechanisms for gender specific concerns and outline remedial measures. It can also suggest academic measures and action programmes to achieve gender equality.

(c) Yes Madam. As part of its terms and conditions, the Task Force is also required to suggest how gender education and sensitisation can be made an integral part of the university curriculum in all subject domains as well as suggest how the awareness of gender sensitive issues can be made an essential eligibility criterion for the recruitment of university faculty and staff.

(d) The Task Force is required to submit its report within two months from the date of the order.