

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1382

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SC STUDENTS

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Punia Shri P.L. ;Saroj Smt. Sushila;Upadhyay Seema;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee headed by Professor Bhalchandra Mungekar to look into caste-based discrimination against Scheduled Caste students in higher educational institutions including central universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details of the main recommendations made by the Committee and the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (e) the details of the instances of harassment and suicide of SC/ST students in these institutions during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to put an end to discrimination and harassment in above institutions?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : As per the report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), it had appointed Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar as the Commissioner of Enquiry into complaints of caste-based discrimination in the Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. The Vardhman Mahavir Medical College is affiliated to the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, which is a State University. No such Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to look into allegations of caste based discrimination in Central Universities.

(c) : Yes, Madam. A copy of the report of enquiry was sent by the NCSC to the Hon'ble Health Minister on 10th September, 2012.

(d) : The enquiry report has made several suggestions directed at the College and its affiliating University. It has recommended the appointment of a Liaison Officer exclusively for the SC/ST students; a review of the overall performance of the SC/ST students on a quarterly basis; remedial classes for SC/ST students; the setting up of an equal opportunity cell; conducting of special examination for SC/ST students, etc.

(e) : Jamia Millia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University have reported complaints relating to the harassment of SC/ST/other category students whose details are as under:

S.No.	Name of Central University	Details about complaints
	No. of Complaints	No. Disposed of

1.	Jamia Millia Islamia,	1	1
2.	Jawaharlal Nehru University	11	8

No other Central University has informed this Ministry of any such incident.

The cases of suicides in IITs and NITs were enquired into by fact finding committees and the reasons for suicides, as per the findings of the committees, include depression, academic load, peer pressure and also emotional/interpersonal issues. Caste based discrimination has not been mentioned amongst the reasons for suicides in these institutions.

(f) : The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides financial assistance to the universities to establish Equal Opportunity Cells to oversee the effective implementation of the policies and programmes implemented for the welfare of the disadvantaged groups, to

provide guidance and counselling with respect to academic, financial, social and other matters and to enhance diversity within the campus. The UGC also provides financial assistance to establish the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy to support focused research on the issue of social exclusion related to dalits, tribals and religious minorities. The UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012 notified on 19.1.2013, provide for the establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells and the appointment of an Anti-Discrimination Officer in each higher educational institution to give effect to the Regulations. The Ministry issues advisory letters from time to time to all Centrally Funded educational institutions to emphasize that all officials/faculty members should desist from any act of discrimination against students on grounds of their social origin.