

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1043

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

RAGGING IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) the details of the measures taken by the Government to prevent ragging in the Central Universities and other higher educational institutions;
- (b) whether there is an increase in the number of complaints related to ragging in Central Universities and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether some university authorities including Puducherry Central University are reluctant to act on ragging complaints in the recent past and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has intervened in order to ensure strict implementation of anti-ragging law and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken any action in cases where complainants of ragging have been harassed by University authorities particularly in Puducherry Central University and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In order to curb the menace of ragging, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the "UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009", which is available at UGC's website – www.ugc.ac.in. The Regulations contain actions against both individuals, including teachers and employees, and institutions in the event of an incident, if proved to be a case of ragging. Similarly, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), Nursing Council of India (NCI), etc., have also notified anti-ragging regulations. An Anti-Ragging (24x7) Helpline has also been launched by the UGC in 2009 to provide immediate help to the victims of ragging. The UGC, each year, launches a media campaign through print and digital media, informing the public at large, about the consequence of ragging and about the helpline. The Ministry, each year, writes to the Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of all States/UTs, requesting them to take measures to prevent the incidence of ragging. A Monitoring Agency has been engaged to track and follow-up proper action on the complaints received by the Anti-Ragging Helpline.

As per the information furnished to this Ministry by the Monitoring Agency, with regard to Central Universities, a total of 105 complaints have been received since 2009 till date. The CU-wise, year-wise, details of complaints received is given in the Annexure. From the annexure, it may be seen that maximum number of complaints have been received in 2010-11 and during the current year.

(c) to (e): The Ministry is very sensitive to the incidents of ragging. Besides putting up an anti-ragging mechanism to handle the incidences of ragging effectively at the institution level, it has also engaged a Monitoring Agency to follow up the complaints with the concerned institutions, including the Central Universities which reports to the UGC and other regulatory bodies, in case it finds the action taken by the institutions/CUs not satisfactory.

As regards Pondicherry University, a representation from the Students Federation of India was received in the Ministry on 07/11/2013 regarding ragging, sexual harassment and intimidation of two girl-students. A letter from Shri C.P. Narayanan, Member of Parliament (RS) has also been received on 14/11/2013, raising the same matter. Soon after receipt of the representation from the Students Federation of India, a report was called for from the University. Pondicherry University has informed the Ministry that the matter was inquired into by the Anti Ragging Committee of the University and it was found that the incident was not a case of ragging, rather, it was a quarrel between two groups of students. Accordingly, they have taken action against the students found guilty by the Discipline Committee of violating the discipline of the University. The University further added that it is quite sympathetic to the issues relating to ragging and sexual harassment and has taken proactive measures. The grievances of the students, including that of ragging and sexual harassment, can be reported to any member of the ARC or the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee (HSPC) whose names, contact numbers and email IDs are available in the University's website, hostels and academic building, library and in the academic calendar issued to all students. This information is also available in the admission prospectus. Posters indicating zero-tolerance towards ragging have been displayed at all public places and central facilities.