

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:282
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
LABORATORY TESTS ON ANIMALS
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued any guidelines for banning laboratory tests on animals being conducted for experiments in the colleges and universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether violation of these guidelines by some educational institutions have come to the notice of the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken/being taken by the Government against such educational institutions?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines on discontinuation of dissection and animal experimentation in Zoology/Life Sciences in higher educational institutions. These guidelines are available on www.ugc.ac.in. All Universities/ Deemed to be Universities have been requested to ensure compliance of these guidelines by all departments of that University as well as by the affiliated colleges.

(c) & (d): The UGC has informed that it had received two references – one from Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Member of Parliament and other from Dr. Chaitanya Koduri, Science Policy Adviser, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) complaining that several universities offering life science courses are taking advantage of a minor disparity between the UGC guidelines and those issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in order to continue dissecting animals. UGC has reported that State-wise details are not available with it. In response, the UGC has issued several circulars reminding Universities/ Deemed to be Universities to strictly comply with the guidelines on discontinuation of dissection and animal experimentation in Zoology/Life Sciences. The UGC has also constituted a Committee to revisit these guidelines.

The Medical Council of India has amended the Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999 to mandate use of Computer Assisted modules for imparting required knowledge and skills for teaching Physiology and Pharmacology in undergraduate curriculum.