

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1691

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014

RAGGING IN SCHOOLS HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

- (a) Whether instances of ragging in higher educational institutions and schools are increasing despite various measures taken by the Government to check such incidents;
- (b) if so, the number of cases reported in each State during each of the last three years, State and year-wise;
- (c) the number of students who died as a result of ragging or who have committed suicide during the said period, State and year-wise; and
- (d) the stringent measures adopted by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a):No, Madam. Incidents of ragging have decreased due to the relentless efforts made by the Government and other Stakeholders collectively.

(b):Does not arise.

(c): No such case has been reported so far due to ragging.

(d): Measures taken for curbing the menace of ragging in higher Educational Institutions are as follows:-

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009. Similar action has been taken by other Regulatory Bodies. A nationwide toll free 24x7 anti-ragging helpline in 12 languages (English, Hindi and regional languages Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Marathi, Oriya, Assamese, Gujarati, and Bengali) has been established. Publicity on anti-ragging is also given through various media by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. UGC and others have made it mandatory for students/parents for online submission of undertakings on anti-ragging. Regular meetings of the Supreme Court appointed Anti-ragging Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Dr R K Raghavan, former CBI Director, and other Inter-Council meetings are held. 16th meeting of the Raghavan Committee was held on 12.6.14. There is also an Anti-Ragging Cell with requisite component of staff in UGC for monitoring ragging cases exclusively. The definition and scope of ragging has also been expanded to include racial and ethnic incidents. The punishments and penalties include suspending/rusticating the students and taking action against the institutions which may also include withdrawal of affiliation/recognition or other privileges as per Sec 12-B of the UGC Act like grant, making ineligible for general/special assistance, etc.

As far as CBSE is concerned the Board has taken the following measures to prevent the incidents of ragging in schools:-

Vide its circular No. 8 March 10, 2008, regarding Counselling in Schools CBSE had inter alia reiterated that:

At secondary and senior secondary stages at least 20 sessions of psychological counselling must be provided to every student in an academic session. Parents and teachers may also be involved in such sessions.

Awareness about human rights, respect for diversity and equality may be discretely grafted into the lessons and exercises right from the primary classes. Education in life skills can be given greater thrust in classes VI-VIII to inculcate the desirable value system.