

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.226
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2018

Self-Defence Programmes/Courses for Women

***226. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:**

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

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has written to colleges and universities, enquiring about introduction of self-defence programmes/ courses for women students and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the colleges and universities in this regard;
- (b) whether UGC has set any deadline to give response and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated/released/spent for this purpose, college/university-wise;
- (d) whether all the universities have also been asked to inform UGC regarding the steps taken by them to encourage women students to join self-defence programmes/courses and strengthen National Cadet Corps training at the college and university level and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether UGC has also asked universities to submit a status report regarding start of e-enabled classes and setting up of digital rooms inside the campus for the purpose and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the universities thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.226 FOR 12.03.2018 ASKED BY SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK AND SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, REGARDING SELF-DEFENCE PROGRAMMES/COURSES FOR WOMEN

(a) to (e): The University Grants Commission (UGC) had set up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. Meenakshi Gopinath, Ex-Member, UGC to review the existing arrangements for the safety and security of girls and women in particular and of the entire youth in general on campuses of institutions of higher learning. The Task Force submitted its report titled as "SAKSHAM- Measures for Ensuring the Safety of Women and Programmes for Gender Sensitization on Campuses" to the UGC on 30th October, 2013. A copy of the Report of Task Force is available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5873997_SAKSHAM-BOOK.pdf .

UGC circulated a copy of the SAKSHAM Report to Vice-Chancellors of all the Universities to implement the measures recommended by the Task Force for ensuring safety of women and conduct of programmes for gender sensitization. UGC has requested Universities on 28.08.2014 to include items like holding of conference, seminars, conducting of workshops and classes for self-defence of girls, research and studies for implementation of the SAKSHAM Report.

Further, in order to ensure compliance of the recommendations of Task Force, UGC notified University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015. As per these Regulations, it is the responsibility of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to organize training programmes and workshops for the students for gender sensitization as indicated in the SAKSHAM Report.

UGC has, inter-alia, requested Vice-Chancellors of all Universities on 16.02.2018 to provide information regarding introduction of self-defence programmes for women and availability of e-enabled and digital class rooms, latest by 19.02.2018. UGC has informed that, as on 26.02.2018, 130 HEIs are running self-defence programmes for women and 184 HEIs have e-enabled and digital class rooms. Further, UGC has been requested to universalize the adoption of measures recommended in the SAKSHAM Report.

In order to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) in HEIs, UGC has requested Vice-Chancellors of all the Universities on 11.11.2016 to implement NCC as an elective subject in their respective University curriculum.
