

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2379
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8.7.2019**

Caste Discrimination in Higher Education Institutions

2379. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

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

- (a) whether rampant caste based discrimination took place in the higher education institutions in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken on this issue; and
- (c) whether the Government has constituted committees or cells specifically and meant to look into complaints of discrimination against Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe students and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**Minister of Human Resource Development
(Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank')**

(a) & (b): Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/Universities are autonomous bodies which are governed by their own Acts and the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations. The Acts of the respective Universities stipulate that the University shall not discriminate on grounds of caste, religion, etc. The Universities are competent to take all administrative decisions including to prevent all kinds of harassment and discrimination against any section of students. Total Number of cases reported by University Grants Commission (UGC) in various University/Colleges on Caste Based Discrimination during the year 2017-18 for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students are 66 and 6 respectively. Cases are handled and disposed off by the concerned Universities and Colleges, as empowered under their respective Acts. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) reported that no such complaints have been received by them from AICTE approved Institutions

(c) The Central Government as well as UGC have issued several instructions from time to time to all State Governments and Centrally Funded Education Institutions to curb discrimination of any kind in HEIs. Recently, UGC on 26th June, 2019 has advised all the Vice-Chancellor of all Universities to constitute a committee to look into the discrimination complaints received from the SC/ST/OBC Students/Teachers and non-teaching staff.

Major initiatives undertaken in this regard are:-

- (i) In order to check discrimination and harassment of any section of students and to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism, the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

(ii) University Grants Commission (Grievance Redressal) Regulations, 2012 has been formulated. These Regulations intend to give effect in letter and spirit to the provisions of the Constitution and other statutory provisions and policies for prevention of discrimination on the grounds of caste and to safeguards the interests of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Regulations also seek to provide for advancement of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students through setting up of Equal Opportunity Cells in each Higher Educational Institution.

(iii) In order to make the universities/colleges more responsive to the needs and constraints of the disadvantaged social groups, the UGC is giving financial assistance to all eligible Colleges/Universities to establish Equal Opportunity Centres. The aim and objective of this Scheme is to oversee the effective implementation of policies and programmes for disadvantaged groups, to provide guidance and counselling with respect to academic, financial, social and other matters and to enhance the diversity within the campus.

(iv) UGC has also approved establishment of SC/ST Cells in various Universities with a view to safeguard the interests of SC/ST students.

(v) Other initiatives include provision of Anti Discriminatory faculty advisors for SC/ST students who look into their problems and advise accordingly, appointment of Student Counsellors to address personal, academic, psychological and family related problems, providing sports and extra curricular activities, setting up counselling centres, provision of anxiety helpline, and setting up disciplinary action committee to take urgent action in case of any complaints of reported ragging, discrimination based on caste, creed, religion and gender etc.

AICTE has also framed strict norms to prohibit such incidents in technical institutions, which are as under:-

(i) For protection against harassment and discrimination of Scheduled Castes in AICTE Approved Institutions, it is essential for all AICTE approved institutions to Establish Committee for SC/ ST (As per the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, No. 33 of 1989, dated 11.09.1989).

(ii) As per AICTE norms each (AICTE approved) Institution shall upload the number of complaints and grievances received and action taken on their Web site and update AICTB through the monthly online status report.

(iii) In case of receipt of any complaint(s) about an Institution, the same shall be processed by Public Grievance Redressal Cell (PGRC) of AICTE established to dispose of the complaint cases.

(iv) AICTE takes action against such institutions (AICTE Approved) for violation of AICTE norms as mentioned in Chapter VII of the Approval Process Handbook (APH) of year concerned and punishes them as appropriate.

(एससी/एसटी अनुभाग)

विषय:- माननीय संसद सदस्य श्रीमति कनिमोड़ी करुणानिधि के द्वारा पूछे जाने वाले “mPprj 'kS{kf.kd laLFkkuksa esa tkfrxr HksnHkko” के बारे में 8.7.2019 के लिए लोकसभा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2379.

एससी/एसटी अनुभाग को माननीय संसद सदस्य श्रीमति कनिमोड़ी करुणानिधि के द्वारा पूछे जाने वाले “mPprj 'kS{kf.kd laLFkkuksa esa tkfrxr HksnHkko” के बारे में 8.7.2019 के लिए लोकसभा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2379 प्राप्त हुआ है। प्रश्न का पाठ निम्नानुसार प्रस्तुत किया गया है: -

¼d½ D;k gky esa mPprj 'kS{kf.kd laLFkkuksa esa tkfrxr HksnHkko vfu;af=r gks x;k gS(¼[k½ ;fn gka] rks rRlaca/kh C;kSjk D;k gS vkSj bl ekeys esa D;k dkjZokbZ dh xbZ gS(vkSj ¼x½ D;k ljdkj us vuqlwfr tkfr@vuqlwfr tutkfr ds fo|kfFkZ;ksa ds fo#) HksnHkko dh f'kdk;rksa dh tkap&iM+rky ds fy, fo'ks"k:i ls lfevr;ka ;k izdks"B xfBr dh gS vkSj ;fn gka] rks rRlaca/kh C;kSjk D;k gS\

2. इस संबंध में, एससी/एसटी अनुभाग ने कार्यालय ज्ञापन दिनांक 1.7.2019(P-3/C), 3.7.2019(P-4/C) और 4.7.2019(P-27/C) के द्वारा पैरा-वार सूचना प्रदान करने के लिए उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के ब्यूरो प्रमुखों, विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) और अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (एआईसीटीई) से अनुरोध किया था और यह कहना है कि एआईसीटीई (P-17/C), यूजीसी (P-20/C) से सूचना के अलावा किसी भी ब्यूरो से अपेक्षित सूचना प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। छात्रवृत्ति प्रभाग(P-8/C) और TS-IV/VIIA अनुभाग (P-9/C) से NIL सूचना प्राप्त हुआ है।

3. यह उल्लेख किया गया है कि, इसी प्रकार के प्रश्न का उत्तर लोक सभा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2540 के लिए 14.3.2016 (P-10/C), लोकसभा प्रश्न अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 845 के लिए 21.11.2016(P-12/C) और राज्यसभा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2168 के लिए 3.8.2017(P-15/C) esa पहले भी दिए गए। पहले दिए गए उत्तरों और प्राप्त सूचनाओं के आधार पर उत्तर देन का प्रयास किया गया है। माननीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री के और अनुमोदन के लिए प्रस्तुत।

सहायक निदेशक (एससी/एसटी)

अवर (एससी/एसटी)

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