

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3682
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018

Harassment in Higher Education Institutions

3682. DR. A. SAMPATH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the issues of harassment, bullying and discrimination by the students and institutions of higher education are unfortunately still on rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective measures that have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that 149 cases of sexual harassment have been reported from Universities and 39 cases have been reported from Colleges/Institutions during the year 2016-17 in comparison to 94 cases reported from Universities and 18 cases reported from Colleges/Institutions during the year 2015-16. Further, 901 ragging cases have been reported during 2017 in comparison to 515 ragging cases reported during 2016.

(c): 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 accepted the recommendations of the Task Force and 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. These Regulations describe responsibilities of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), grievance redressal mechanism, process for making complaint and conducting inquiry, interim redressal, punishment and compensations, consequences of non-compliance etc. Further, UGC has also notified Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 and their amendments. These Regulations describe measures for prohibition and prevention of ragging at institution level, duties and responsibilities of UGC and Councils, administrative action in the event of ragging etc. UGC Regulations, being statutory in nature, are binding for all HEIs.

UGC has requested Universities to ensure strict compliance of these UGC Regulations in HEIs from time to time. UGC has also developed an Anti-Ragging website which records data on ragging cases in HEIs.
