GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1332

ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2023

Increasing Incidents of Ragging

†1332. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of ragging in the country as recently committed in Jadavpur University;

(b) if so, the details of the investigation of the case reported and action taken therein to resolve the matter;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to cooperate with the Regulatory Officers to ensure ragging free campus as per the recommendation of Raghavan Panel;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government evaluates the effectiveness of existing measures like UGC Regulations 2009 to prevent the menace of ragging in Higher Educational Institutions considering their efficacy in preventing ragging;

- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (c): Government is committed to ensure a ragging free campus in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that the incident of ragging in Jadavpur University was taken cognizance of by the Police authorities and the matter is under the jurisdiction of courts.

However, UGC had also constituted an expert committee to investigate the matter in compliance of "UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009" to look into the ragging incident in the Jadavpur University. The committee in its report has recommended that there must be a proper eco-system in place at Jadavpur University to prevent ragging; a proactive mechanism towards vigilance, monitoring, prevention and awareness regarding ragging; installation of CCTVs in the hostel and ragging-prone zones of the University; and students' involvement in relevant university committees to maintain transparency in the system etc. UGC has informed that the extracts of the expert committee report duly

highlighting the shortcomings have been sent to Jadavpur University and have asked the University to initiate immediate steps to address the same. In response, the University has intimated UGC that various steps have been initiated by the University to ensure the compliances of UGC Regulations. UGC also asked Jadavpur University to submit regular reports till the time all compliances are adhered to and all shortcomings resolved.

(d) & (e): The recommendations of Raghavan Panel are being implemented by all the Regulatory Bodies including UGC. The Anti-Ragging Monitoring Committee was set up in compliance of Supreme Court Judgement in Civil Appeal No. 887/2009 for Govt. of India. The Committee is mandated to look into the various aspects of ragging, possible action that can be taken against persons indulging in ragging and against college/ university authorities in the event of ragging and to hold regular meetings. The last meeting was held in the month of November, 2023. All the Regulatory Bodies attended this meeting.

(f) to (h): UGC issues instructions to all the HEIs for strict compliance of UGC Regulations 2009 for constitution of anti-ragging committee, anti-ragging squad, setting up of Anti-Ragging Cell and adequate publicity for these measures through various media, which can be seen at <u>https://www.ugc.ac.in/page/Ragging-Related-Circulars.aspx</u>.

Various Anti-ragging measures viz. establishment of 24x7 National anti-ragging helpline, anti-ragging workshops and seminars, mandatory inclusion of severe consequences of ragging in prospectus of institutions, mandatory online undertaking by students and parents every academic year, display of anti-ragging posters at prominent places in the institutions etc. have been taken to ensure compliance of the UGC Regulations on curbing the menace of ragging in higher educational institutions.
