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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1220 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th NOVEMBER, 2019

Drug abuse in Educational Institutions

1220. SHRI M.V.V.SATYANARAYANA:

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

- (a) the Government is aware of the instances of reported cases of consumption of drugs, steroids, alcohol in the Schools/Colleges/Universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any directions/ instructions have been issued to all the Schools/Colleges/Government and Private Universities including its adjoining places to prohibit usage by the Students and strict compliance of rules;
- (d) whether there has been a reported increase in the cases of ragging of the students in various Private/Government Universities of the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government;
- (f) whether any law has been enacted/ or Government has any proposal to bring suitable law; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) & (b): No, Sir.

(c): University Grants Commission (UGC) has communicated to all the universities for strict adherence to the provisions of the "Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 and Rules framed thereunder on 2nd April, 2013 (details available on www.ugc.ac.in). The UGC circular enjoins upon all concerned inter alia to display boards prominently stating that sale of cigarettes and tobacco products in an area within a radius of 100 yards of the university / colleges is strictly prohibited. Besides, sensitization of teaching and non-teaching staff of the University and its affiliated Colleges have been given pamphlets for organizing competitions in promoting a tobacco-free campus. Another communication was issued on 27th August, 2013 (details available on www.ugc.ac.in) for implementation of the actionable points of the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) wherein Para 55 provides for steps to tackle the problem of sale of drug to school and college children. Subsequently UGC have issued letters from time to time on dated December, 2013, 6th September, 2016, 23th May, 2018, 30th May, 2019 (details available on www.ugc.ac.in).

Central Board of Secondary Education vide its circular dated 7th January, 2015 has directed all the schools affiliated to it to display boards in Hindi and English languages announcing Tobacco Free Educational Institutions. It was done in order to comply the orders of Directorate of Health Services – Delhi which mandatory display of both the boards in accordance with guidelines issued under Indian Tobacco Control Act COTPA 2003 for all schools. It was also highlighted that the non-compliance would attract fine/ challan as per Tobacco Control Laws of Government of National Territory Delhi.

(d) & (e): There is an increase in reporting of the cases registered by National Anti Ragging Helpline primarily due to awareness created in students by the UGC through publicity of Anti-Ragging by media campaign towards curbing the menace of ragging.

Summary of the cases that requested information by the Monitoring Agency by UGC. The status from 18th April, 2012 till 21st November, 2019 is as under:

Total cases registered	5323
Total cases closed	5153
Total cases active at UGC & other	14
Regulatory Authorities	
Total cases active at Contact Centres	156
and Monitoring Agencies	

(f) & (g): The UGC has notified the "UGC Anti Ragging Regulations on curbing the menace of ragging in higher educational institutions, 2009". Details are available at UGC website (www.ugc.ac.in).

The UGC has made it mandatory for all Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to incorporate in their prospectus the directions of the Government regarding prohibition and consequences of ragging.

In addition, the UGC has also framed guidelines on Safety of Students on and off Campuses of HEIs with an objective for the effective management of problems and challenges faced by students. These guidelines provides for mandatory broad-based "Students Counselling System" for the effective management of problems and challenges faced by students.
