

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 207  
ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024**

**Cancellation of Seminars by JNU**

**207 Shri Vijayakumar Alias Vijay Vasanth:  
Shri Manickam Tagore B:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government or any external agencies pressurised Jawaharlal Nehru University to cancel the seminars featuring diplomats from Iran, Palestine, and Lebanon;
- (b) the specific reasons for cancellation of these seminars and whether these circumstances related to potential protests or other security concerns;
- (c) whether cancelling academic events featuring foreign diplomats undermines India's commitment to academic freedom and open dialogue;
- (d) whether the cancellations of such activities effect India's diplomatic relationships with these countries, and if so, the implications on our foreign policy;
- (e) whether the similar cancellations or disruptions of academic events have been reported in other universities, if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to prevent such incidents; and
- (f) the manner in which the Government ensure that universities remain spaces for open discussion and debate, free from external pressures or interference?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (f): Central Universities are statutory autonomous institutions established under Act(s) of Parliament and governed by their respective Act(s), Statutes and Ordinances made there-under. Central Universities exercise autonomy of decision making in the matters pertaining to administration and academics with the approval of their statutory bodies. This autonomy of functioning gives the Central Universities the space for open discussion and debate, free from external pressure and interferences. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) also exercises functional autonomy operating within JNU Act, 1966 and statutes and ordinances made there-under. The University has informed that no seminar has been cancelled and it provides plural and democratic space catering to India's diversity by exercising its autonomy to develop and conduct its own academic curriculum and activities through its statutory bodies.

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