

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 906
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2016**

906. ACTION AFTER SUICIDE OF DALIT SCHOLAR

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the action that the Ministry has taken on the suicide of a dalit scholar of Hyderabad Central University;
- (b) whether the Ministry was in contact with the Ministry of HRD;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)**

(a) : With reference to a news item dated 19.01.2016, captioned “Behind Dalit student suicide: how his campus showed him the door”, the Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, was demi-officially addressed on 19.01.2016 requesting for a factual note in the matter and the circumstances that led to a drastic step taken by the student. The details in regard to relief amount under relevant provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 were also sought.

Government of Telangana, informed that the case was booked by Gachibowli Police Station of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate vide crime no. 19/2016 under section 174 Cr. PC based on the report of the hostel warden in the incident of the reported suicide of Shri Rohith Vemula. Another FIR was filed by complainant Shri Dontha Prashant, alleging atrocities of Professor P. Appa Rao, Vice Chancellor of University of Hyderabad and some others in which a case was booked in Crime No. 20/2016 under section 306 IPC and section 3(1)(ix) ,(x) and 3(2)(vii) of the PoA Act. Subsequently section 3(2)(v) of the PoA Act was also added. The University authorities also announced payment of an amount of Rs. 8,00,000/- as ex-gratia to the bereaved family of Rohith Vemula.

(b) and (c): The Ministry of Human Resource Development which was addressed in the matter has informed that in the wake of the chain of unfortunate events at the Central University of Hyderabad, a Fact Finding Committee was constituted by the Ministry, and based on the observations and findings of the Committee, the Government has appointed a Commission of Enquiry consisting of Justice Ashok Kumar Roopanwal(Retired), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952(60 of 1952), to enquire into the events at the University of Hyderabad, culminating in the death of Shri Chakravarti R. Vemula.

(d): Does not arise.
