**No. Acad.III/PQ/1052/2014/ December 18, 2014**

Shri Pramod Kumar Saha

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Ministry of Human Resource Development

(Department of Higher Education)

Room No. 503-B

Shastri Bhawan

**NEW DELHI – 110 115**

**Sub: Material for reply to Rajya Sabha Provisional Admitted Starred/Unstarred Question Diary No. S1846 for 22.12.2014 asked by Shri Baishnav Parida regarding “Education of wards of Construction Workers.’’**

Sir,

Please refer to your e-mail dated 10.12.2014 on the subject cited above.

 As desired, we forward herewith the draft material to the aforesaid Rajya Sabha Provisional Admitted Starred/Unstarred Question for further action at your end.

 Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

**[UMAKANT AGARWAL]**

Deputy Registrar (Academic)

**Encl:** As above.

CC:

 PS to Registrar --- For the kind information of the Registrar.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

NEW DELHI – 110 067

**Material for reply to Rajya Sabha Provisional Admitted Starred/Unstarred Question Diary No. S1846 for 22.12.2014 asked by Shri Baishnav Parida regarding “Education of wards of Construction Workers.’’**

**Q. (a) Whether it is a fact that wards of labour force/construction workers around Jawaharlal Nehru University and other universities in Delhi, are being organized and given a taste of learning by their students and others within in campus”?**

Reply: Yes. In Jawaharlal Nehru University, an initiative of JNU students group called “Unnoticed” dedicated to educate the children of construction workers within and around JNU is functioning in liaison with National Service Scheme of the University.

**Q. (b) If so, the details of such novel initiative.**

Reply: The student initiative of “Unnoticed” began in 2006. The main inspiration for them to start this group was from the vision of JNU which states that **“A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then it is well with the Nation and the People”.**

 The students feel that some of the construction workers’ children need attention. They often had no decent place to stay, but to live in settlements which had inadequate sanitation facilities. They have little opportunity for basic education and health facilities. Their safety and security are often matters of concern. They are found suffering from malnutrition. The JNU students found a huge gap between migrant labourers, coming from the most vulnerable section of the society, who are actually engaged in nation building activity (construction) and the people who enjoy the fruits of development coming from privileged background. Therefore, they felt that being privileged students in JNU, a university which support social cause; it is their humanitarian duty to support these children for getting access to education, and contribute to improve their health.

 The main aim of “Unnoticed” is to create a space for these children so that they could be intellectually stimulated and their creative faculties could be given an environment to develop. They began classes for the children in open spaces, as they were not able to find a class room for them. “Unnoticed” group that began with an enrollment of 20 has approximately the strength of 60 children now. The group got the children enrolled in MCD schools nearby JNU. In the Campus classes are conducted in the evenings from 4-6 pm. One girl student has currently reached to class 12. The group has expanded their activities such as organizing drama, music, and crafts classes for the children, and takes them out on recreational trip around Delhi.

It is only on the initiative of the Vice-Chancellor; this group got an institutional support. A classroom in the JNU under student activity Centre was extended through National Service Scheme. These children had participated in University functions like observance of Independence Day, Republic Day, and to celebrate their anniversary in the University premises in association with NSS. Thereafter, many faculty members and students in the campus came forward to support “Unnoticed” children in various ways.

Apart from education they organize health camps for these children. They provide medical assistance to the children. They try to stay connected with these children when they move out of the campus. This has taken their work to Gurgaon, Palwal and Faridabad. Many in the JNU community feel that it is a noble initiative launched by our students, which can be emulated by other institutions.

**Q. (c) Whether such a commendable job is proposed to be encouraged at such other similarly placed universities/sites to help the youth paving for them a right path of life?**

Reply: It is for MHRD to respond.

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