

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:135

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

FAKE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) whether complaints have been received about the increasing number of fake universities and educational institutions operating in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of fake universities and educational institutions identified by the Government so far ;
- (c) the details of action taken against such institutions; and
- (d) the measures taken to check further expansion of such institutions in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 135 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13th JULY, 2009 ASKED BY SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH AND SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY.

(a) to (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) is entrusted with the responsibilities of maintenance of standards and coordination of higher education system. The UGC has so far identified 22 fake 'universities' /educational institutions allegedly functioning in contravention of the UGC Act.

(c) & (d) : The UGC has taken legal action in various courts against 7 of these fake 'universities'/ institutions and has issued show-cause notices in other cases. State Governments have also initiated action against 5 of these fake 'universities' /institutions. Names of such universities / institutions have also been included in the list of the fake 'universities'/institutions maintained by the UGC and placed on its official website for information to students and the general public. Wide publicity is given by the UGC every year through print / electronic media, cautioning students not to take admission in such fake institutions.

Chief Ministers of States/ UTs have been requested to instruct the District level administration to take punitive action under the Indian Penal Code against those operating fake 'universities'/institutions. States have also been requested to instruct Registrars of Societies in each State to consult the UGC whenever an application is made for registration of societies under the title 'University', 'Vishwavidyalaya' and 'Vishwavidyapeeth' or any other regional synonym with the objective of conferring degrees or other equivalent qualifications. A public 'appeal' was issued on 17th June, 2008 by this Ministry that students must satisfy themselves that institutions and courses offered by them are recognized under the relevant laws and are of quality and repute and that in case of any doubt, necessary clarification may be obtained from the relevant statutory bodies, such as the UGC, AICTE. Statutory bodies have also been directed to launch effective campaign against such institutions which are fake and to take appropriate penal action under law. An 'appeal' has also been made to the media to refuse to publish misleading advertisements by such institutions even if it meant loss of advertising revenue.

A legislative proposal to prohibit certain unfair practices including misleading advertisements by institutions for attracting or inducing students for taking admission therein where such institution is not recognized under law, is also under consideration of the Government.