GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:535
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013
CONCEPT OF JEE
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

(a) whether the concept of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) was introduced for admission into various higher educational institutions to eliminate the regional imbalances and lack of uniformity in the standard adopted by different boards of examinations/universities at the eligibility level course;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the weightage of marks secured in the intermediate/plus two examinations and normalized percentile system for advance examination has affected the chances of meritorious students and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the concept of normalized percentile both in JEE (Mains) and JEE (Advanced) has caused discrimination among the candidates within the State and between different States in so much so that from as low as in Tripura, Maharashtra to as high as in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to review and redress the injustice caused to the students particularly from Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a): The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) was introduced for admissions into the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad. Subsequently, from academic year 2013, it was extended to include NITs and other CFTIs (Centrally Funded Technical Institutions) besides state engineering colleges in States, which have accepted the JEE system. The JEE provides a common platform that takes care of the lack of uniformity in the standards adopted by different boards of examination.

(b): The JEE now consists of two examinations, viz. JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced). Admissions to NITs, other CFTIs and those state engineering colleges, where States have accepted the JEE system, are based on the combined merit list created by giving 40% weightage to class XII Board marks based on normalized percentile scores, with the remainder 60% weightage to performance in the JEE (Main). Only the top 1.5 lakh candidates (including all categories) based on their performance in the JEE (Main) qualify to appear in the JEE (Advanced) examination. Admissions to IITs are based only on category-wise All India Rank in JEE (Advanced), subject to the condition that such candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates in class XII examinations conducted by their respective Boards in applicable categories.

(c): The percentile criterion has been applied uniformly to all the candidates, and, therefore, the chances of meritorious students getting affected does not arise.

(d): Percentiles are a good basis of comparing different boards and they are non-discriminatory. They take into account the variations in examinations conducted by different boards. Based on this year's examination data, the cut-off percentile score for top 20 percentile varies from one Board to another. Since different Boards evaluate differently, percentiles have been used to ensure a fair comparison of students belonging to different Boards. Similarly, the normalized percentile in JEE (Main) is also non-discriminatory for candidates within the states and between different states.

(e): Does not arise in view of (d) above.