

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1500
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Singh Smt. Meena

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

he details of the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to check the high cost of education system prevalent in universities and technical educational institutions in the country at present?

Answer

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

Education in India is a not-for profit activity. Pursuant to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Islamic Academy of Education Vs the State of Karnataka and T.M.A Pai Foundation Vs the State of Karnataka, Fee Fixation Committees have been set up by different State Governments. The private universities in India are also regulated as per the provisions of the University Grants Commission (UGC) (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities), 2003.

The UGC has also issued the UGC (Institutions Deemed-to- be Universities) Regulations 2010. Para 6.5 of these Regulations provides that, "The level of the fees charged for the courses offered in deemed-to-be universities shall have a reasonable relation to the cost of running the course. The fee structure shall be displayed in the prospectus and on the institution's website".

The Government has also introduced the Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010 in the Lok Sabha which provides for the prohibition of certain unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities including private colleges and universities to protect the interest of the students admitted and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It also provides for criminal liability and civil penalties for charging capitation fee or donations or for charging fees over and above what is disclosed in the prospectus or the website.

In order to help the students from poor families, SCs, STs and minorities etc., the Government is administering several fellowship and scholarship schemes. The Government has also started a scheme for providing full interest subsidy on loans taken by students for higher education, since 2007. The scheme is applicable to all those students whose parental income is less than Rs. 4.5 lakhs per annum, who have taken education loans.