

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1580
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
PURCHASE OF FOREIGN E JOURNAL
Natarajan Shri P.R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up any technical committee to analyse the purchase of foreign e-journals by the universities across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any complaints have been received from the management of private universities alleging that the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has arbitrarily been insisting on purchase of select foreign e-journals during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. Shashi Tharoor)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The All India Council for Technical Education has set up a committee under the Chairmanship of the Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi to analyse the requirement of the e- journals in the technical institutions.
- (c) & (d): The AICTE has not arbitrarily insisted on purchase of e-journals as it was a decision based on the academic requirements and supplied by the technical evaluation committee. However, the complaints received in AICTE in connection with the mandatory subscription to e-journals were referred to a one - member committee of Justice(Retired) R. G. Sindhakar which in its report stated, inter-alia, "It is needless to examine the position over once again and I find that the Council has taken adequate steps and precautions before issuing the mandatory directions. It is therefore, futile to say that the mandatory directions are result of any collusion between the publishers and the unnamed AICTE officials".
- (e): The matter currently is sub-judice where the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given an interim order read as "Applicant to purchase journals through DELNET/INDEST".