

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3343
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
FUNDING OF COLLEGES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to decrease the funding of the colleges in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether decrease in funding has resulted in increase in fees to improve the infrastructure of the campuses;
- (d) if so, whether the education would be costly beyond the reach of common man; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a): No, Madam. The University Grants Commission (UGC) continues to provide enhanced funding under its schemes to Colleges, declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956, to improve quality and equity and implement various teacher and student centric schemes. The Central Government has actually decided to enhance funding to state Higher Educational Institutions through the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), with an outlay of Rs.22,855 crores, for strategic funding of State Universities and Colleges. Colleges not recognized under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 are also eligible to be funded under the RUSA.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (e): No, Madam. The Supreme Court of India, in the case of the TMA Pai Foundation and subsequent judgements, has given directions declaring profit-making as illegal in education. Accordingly, fees in higher professional and technical institutions are fixed by the State Fee Fixation Committee of the respective State Governments, in order to ensure that education does not become costly beyond the reach of common man.

Central Government funding of higher education has increased considerably over previous years to provide development grants to publicly funded higher educational institutions. The UGC also provides funds to self financed institutions for teacher and student targeted schemes. Students in self financed institutions can avail of the interest subsidy on the educational loans availed by them under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks Association.