

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3369

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TANDON COMMITTEE

Abdulrahman Shri ;Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Ray Shri Saugata

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

- (a) the details of recommendations contained in the P.N. Tandon Committee report on deemed to-be-universities;
- (b) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has not taken any action on these recommendations and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has directed UGC to examine the poor academic track record of some of the above universities including availability of infrastructure and faculty and if so, the details of directives issued by the Supreme Court in this regard; and
- (d) the action plan prepared by the UGC to secure the future of students studying in these Deemed-to-be-Universities in case the Deemed-to-be-University status is withdrawn?

**Answer**

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

(a): In July 2009, the Government constituted a Committee of eminent academic experts with Prof. P.N. Tandon, Prof. Mrinal Miri, Prof. M. Anandkrishnan and Prof. G. Mehta as members, to review the functioning of institutions deemed to be universities and the desirability of their continuance as such. The Review Committee categorized them into three categories viz. 'A', 'B' and 'C'. The Review Committee, on the basis of their evaluation and assessment, reported that 38 institutions, which on an aggregate of their achievements and their performance as well as potential, justified their continuation as deemed universities; 44 institutions, which on an aggregate were found to be deficient in some aspects which should be rectified in a three-year period for them to transit into first category for their continuation as "deemed universities"; and 44 institutions deemed to be universities which, neither on past performance nor on promise for the future, have the attributes to retain their status as universities.

(b): The Central Government has accepted the recommendations of the Review Committee in principle. However, the matter relating to de-notifying the 44 category 'C' Institutions Deemed to be Universities is at present sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Viprav Sharma v/s Union of India (W.P. Civil 142 of 2006).

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 11.01.2011 in the above matter, directed that in relation to the 44 institutions placed in category 'C', the Central Government would issue individual notices to each institution drawing the institution's attention to the deficiencies and calling for an explanation and response. A Committee of Officers was constituted to hear representations from these 44 institutions, and the institution's response on the observations made by the Review Committee. This Committee, after individual hearings, recommended that it found no reason to deviate from the conclusions drawn by the Review Committee which comprised of academic experts. The report of the Committee of Officers was placed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Since the matter is now sub-judice, no consequential action was initiated either by the University Grants Commission (UGC) or by the Ministry.

(c): In its latest order dated 21.01.2014, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the UGC to examine all the above mentioned reports, with notice to all the 44 institutions concerned. As per the Hon'ble Court's orders, institutions are free to raise their objections against the aforementioned reports and the UGC has to consider the same and take an independent decision in accordance with law, if necessary, after affording a hearing, within a period of two months. Thereafter, UGC will tender its advice to the Central Government with its report. Accordingly, UGC is proceeding in the matter as per the directions of the Hon'ble apex court.

(d): In November, 2009 the Government constituted a Task Force having the same members as that of the Review Committee to advise the Government on the action plan regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee. The terms of reference included the plan of action for protecting the interest of students. The Task Force has given its report containing their suggestions on protecting the interest of students upon revoking the declaration of the relevant deemed to be university. The Government has, in principle, accepted the report of the Task Force also. However, no action has been taken because the matter is currently sub-judice.