

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
MUSHROOMING OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the proliferation of sub-standard private universities in the country;
- (b) if so, whether there is poor infrastructure and lack of qualified teachers in such universities and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to check mushrooming of such universities and the role of regulatory authorities in overseeing that the private universities adhere to certain set standard of education;
- (d) the manner in which the audit is conducted in respect of such universities and the details of penal provisions made for not adhering to prescribed norms; and
- (e) the details of institutes closed down during the last three years along with the reasons therefor and the control exercised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) over fees to be charged by the private institutes/colleges?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): Yes, Madam. At present, 184 Private Universities have been established in the country through State Legislations. During the last five years, different State Governments have set up 127 Private Universities.

(b): Yes, Madam. Some private universities which have been created recently by State Government are facing problems of poor infrastructure and lack of qualified teachers. The Private Universities are inspected by the UGC with the help of Expert Committees which include representatives from the concerned Statutory Council(s). These Expert Committees visit the Private Universities to assess the fulfillment of minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc. as laid down by the UGC and Statutory Bodies concerned. Out of the 184 Private Universities, the UGC Expert Committees have visited 85 Private Universities. The UGC visiting Expert Committees and AICTE Expert Committees have pointed out some deficiencies in the infrastructure and availability of qualified faculty. The reports of the Expert Committees are placed before the Commission for consideration and the reports are sent to Institutions concerned for rectification of the defects and compliance.

(c) & (d): Presently, all the Private Universities in the country have been established by the Acts of the State Legislatures and these are being regulated by the UGC as per the provisions contained in the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. On inspection, if UGC finds any deficiency and non conformity with the UGC Regulations in Private Universities, it gives an opportunity to rectify the same. Even after the opportunity if the university fails to comply with the provisions of any of the Regulations, the Commission may pass an order prohibiting the Private University from offering any course etc. till the deficiency is rectified and inform the public in general through public notification. A private university continuing such programmes and awarding unspecified degrees shall be liable for penalty under Section 24 of the UGC Act. UGC constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Mihir K. Chaudhari, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University enquiring the alleged irregularities of CMJ University, Shillong, Meghalaya as reported by the Governor's Secretariat. After submission of the report of the Committee, UGC forwarded the same to the Governor Secretariat, Meghalaya and Chief Secretary, Meghalaya Government with the request to take appropriate action against CMJ University as per the provisions of the University Act or any other law as the Governor Secretariat/State Government deems fit.

(e): During the last three years, 242 private institutions were ordered to be closed down by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The specific reasons for closure of the Institutes are

- (i) There is less demand for institutes located in rural areas for admission, as the institutes are not able to provide an industry-institute-interface and campus placements. It may be noted that generally the students are interested in migrating to cities for education,
- (ii) The demand for certain branches of engineering is less and institutes offering only such branches face the problem of not getting the seats filled up and
- (iii) Attracting good faculty in educational institutions situated in rural areas is also difficult as there are no other openings for their spouses and children for employment and studies which in turn affect the quality of education and thereby the demand for such colleges is less.

The list of the closed down Institutes is as under:

State Year 2012-13 Year 2013-14 Year 2014-15

Jharkhand 1 - - West Bengal 3 1 - Haryana 4 9 2 Punjab 3 3 3 Rajasthan 15 4 2 Bihar 1 - Uttar Pradesh 2 14 6 Andhra Pradesh 52 53
4 Karnataka 2 1 3 Tamil Nadu 1 3 3 Maharashtra 12 12 4 Chhattisgarh 1 - Gujarat 9 1 Madhya Pradesh 4 2 Orissa 1 - Delhi - 1
Total 96 115 31

As regards the control exercised by AICTE over fees to be charged by the private institutes/ colleges, the AICTE had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Ranganathan Mishra, former Chief Justice of India for prescribing guidelines for charging of tuition and other fees and admission of students in technical institutions. After sudden demise of Justice Ranganathan Mishra, AICTE has re-constituted the Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Justice Shri B N Srikrishna. AICTE has also notified the Regulations for the creation of Ombudsman within the Universities and Complaint Redressal Committee within the Institutions respectively.