

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member is a well-informed Member and he is fully aware that the commitment charge begins 60 days after the loan agreement is drawn. All multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank – the two wings of World Bank, the IBRD and IDA- and the Asian Development Bank, take commitment charges, and they have a point. This money is kept in liquidity and whenever the borrower demands, they have to pay for it and they cannot make any investments or use it in any other area. Therefore, for locking the money, commitment charges become inevitable. Details of commitment charges are being entered into the loan agreement, saying on which date, what percentage of commitment charge will be paid. And, this is a conscious decision. Every borrowing country accepts it. After all, the hon. Member would appreciate that the numbers of those who can lend are limited while the numbers of those who wish to borrow are much more. And it is simply not possible, Sir, for anybody, any institution, to complete a project for which we are espousing; from 61st day the project would start. But we have an elaborate reviewing mechanism. We are also trying to reduce the commitment charge as far as possible, and we are doing so. In some year, for instance, for 2009, through agreements we have been able to introduce the idea that commitment charge will not be charged. So, sometimes, it happens, as in the case of bilateral donors; except Germany, nobody charges any commitment charge. But loan conditions of multilateral agencies like the World Bank and its two wings, IBRD and IDA, are such that even after paying the commitment charge it is profitable to take money from these institutions. Therefore, countries run after it.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, in the light of the on-going efforts to improve multilateral flows in the country, one of the serious factors for not being able to access the headroom for borrowing available to India from ADB and the World Bank is a declining disbursement ratio. Does Government contemplate any steps in the near future which can substantially improve the disbursement ratio from multilateral loans?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is a suggestion for action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.43.

*43 [The questioner Shri Sanjay Raut was absent. For answer *vide* page 23 *intra*]

Establishment of Deemed Universities

*44. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: ††

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) the number of Deemed Universities recognized during the last five years with State-wise details thereof;

(b) the criteria for recognizing a University as a Deemed University;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. E. M. Sudarsana Natchippan

(c) whether the approval of the State Government is required for recognizing an institution as Deemed University;

(d) how does the University Grants Commission (UGC) monitor the academic and financial performance of such Deemed Universities;

(e) the source of funding for such institutions;

(f) whether Government gives grants to Deemed Universities; and

(g) if so, the details of the annual grants given to these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Sixty two institutions have been declared by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956, as Deemed to be Universities during the last five years and till 30th June 2009. State-wise list is given below:

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Institutions Declared as Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'						Total
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (till 30.06.09)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	1	2	1	04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	-	-	-	-	01
3.	Bihar	-	-	1	-	-	-	01
4.	Gujarat	-	-	-	1	-	-	01
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	1	1	1	03
6.	Karnataka	-	1	1	1	7	-	10
7.	Kerala	-	-	1	-	1	-	02
8.	Maharashtra	-	4	1	-	1	-	06
9.	Orissa	1	-	-	1	-	-	02
10.	Puducherry	-	-	-	-	1	-	01
11.	Punjab	-	-	-	1	-	-	01
12.	Rajasthan	1	-	1	-	-	1	03
13.	Tamil Nadu	2	1	2	2	10	-	17
14.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	1	1	-	02
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1	-	1	1	1	-	04
16.	West Bengal	-	1	-	-	-	-	01
17.	New Delhi	1	1	1	-	-	-	03
TOTAL		06	09	09	10	25	03	62

(b) and (c) The University Grants Commission has laid down guidelines, as approved by the Government, for considering proposals for declaring an institution as deemed to be university under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956. According to the guidelines, the University Grants Commission has to write to the State Government for their comments on such proposals.

(d) The Commission reviews the functioning of the institutions deemed to be universities periodically every five years or earlier, if necessary, by constituting Committees of Experts.

(e) to (g) While some institutions which have got deemed to be university status, have been promoted by the Central Government or the State Governments, others are self-financed private institutions. As per information gathered from the University Grants Commission, they had provided Rs. 87.20 crore as Non-Plan Grant and Rs. 55.74 crore as Plan Grant during 2007-08 and Rs. 132.91 crore as Non-Plan Grant and Rs. 110.98 crore as Plan Grant during 2008-09, to institutions deemed to be universities.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, the second part of the question regarding the criteria for recognising a deemed university is not fully explained. Sir, it is well-known that two types of deemed universities are coming up. One is for excellence in a particular field. The second is only for commercial purpose. They want to sell away degrees even at the level of Ph.D. Has the Government got any strong commitment to see that the dilution of education is stopped but, at the same time, excellence should be increased? Is there any body of excellence created to regulate them even though they were given the deemed university status?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to state that this is a matter that has exercised our minds as well because there is truly some element of dilution of standards. There are too many deemed universities that have been granted that particular status. Therefore, I decided that I would freeze all fresh grants of deemed universities and I have set up a committee to review all the previous grants that have been made. As and when the report comes to me, then we will take action. But it is not as if there are no guidelines or there is an absence of a regulatory procedure in the grant of that status. There are guidelines by the UGC; there are regulations by the UGC; there are inspections that take place; there are norms. There are norms in respect to physical asset; there are norms in respect to faculty; there are norms in respect to how many professors should be in a particular department, how many readers should be in a department and how many lecturers there should be in a department. All those norms are there. Now, we want to make sure whether the deemed universities have actually followed those norms or has there been any dilution in those norms because we have seen a sudden spurt in those institutions. So, we are carrying out a review. As and when the report is submitted, we shall take action.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, all these norms are till the degree is conferred on or pre-degree stage, for example, how the college or university will be initiated, where the building will be, how many class -rooms will be there, what will be the number of staff, the materials to be

provided and so on. But what happens after getting the degree? Are these people entitled to get a better job in the market? Is the creation of a discipline based on the data collected and demand in the market? We are following the western countries. But western countries are designing the course according to the need of their society. They find out that after five years they need such people in the society and, therefore, they start a course now. But we are starting something the end of which is a total disaster. What is the post-degree position in the job market?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the question necessarily does not relate to deemed universities. It relates to all universities – what is the demand in the market; Is our university structure satisfying that demand in the market; Is education only meant to meet market demand? These are all very big issues and I don't think that I can answer these questions in this fashion that university education should only be tailor-made to meet market demands. Market demands keep on changing. By the time, students get a degree there may be no market for that degree. So, the Government cannot control these things. But, yes, there should be a...

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Then, what is the use of universities?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Okay, if universities are only to serve market demands, then, obviously, we should not have universities for research; we should only have universities catering to market demand. I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not a question that can be appropriately answered in this fashion; in one sentence. We need a whole policy framework in which we need to find out how much we should invest in basic research; what are the needs of the future of the country; what will happen in 2020 or 2030; what will be the needs of the society. It is in that context that we will have to formulate new policies. What is the changing vista of education in the world *vis-a-vis* nationally? What are kinds of market demands that we have created? What are the kinds of innovations that we want? What are the kinds of new areas of knowledge that we want to create? This has nothing to do with the market. Some parts of education have to do with the market; others have not. Technical education has something to do with the market. But, basic research and research institutions have nothing to do with the market.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the method of selecting the Governing Council in the deemed universities. Does the UGC ascertain the research infrastructure for fields like nano-technology and bio-technology in such deemed universities?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If a deemed university is, in fact, carrying out a course in nano-technology and bio-technology, of course, it is part of the UGC actually to inspect the premises and to find out what is the quality and calibre of that course. Those inspections check physical assets, equipments and everything including faculty. So, that is the responsibility of the UGC. What I am trying to find out

the present status of many of these deemed universities. Have the norms been actually fulfilled or not? Is the faculty in position there or not? All that will be looked at, and as and when I find that there are shortcomings, we will deal with that.

As far as Governing Council is concerned, that is for the deemed university to decide.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, whatever may be the interest, enthusiasm on the part of our HRD Minister to bring forth reforms in terms of quality, standard, access, excellence, etc., will he not be too late to do so in as much as much water has flown in terms of education, particularly self-finance colleges and deemed universities are looting and exploiting the public in so many ways? The Government should be aware that this has been going on for long. In spite of all these facts, he is trying to do something. I would like to ask what could be the timeframe before which he can do something concrete.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, no society lives on hopelessness; all societies live on hope. And, if something has gone wrong in the past, we need do so something about it for the future. So, I think, all of us must generate hope in this House rather than hopelessness. That is number one. Number two, Sir, yes, I think there is a big problem about self-financing institutions. There is an issue of fees. There is an issue of commercialisation which we are looking at. But, remember this, any educational reform is not an overnight exercise, by the stroke of the hour, we decide to change the system. It cannot be done. Educational reforms affect every individual in this country, every parent in this country, every household in this country. It is the most sensitive area of the society. So, if we want to move forward, we must move with consensus and we must move carefully, and, therefore, I request the hon. Member that we are not going to give timeframe as to when things are going to be done, but we will give a commitment that we will change the system, we will make India a hub of education.

श्री कलराज मिश्र : मान्यवर, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में यह बताया है कि पांच वर्षों के अंदर 62 संस्थाओं को सम-विश्वविद्यालय घोषित किया गया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि 1952 से लेकर 2004 तक कितने सम-विश्वविद्यालयों को मान्यता प्राप्त हुई और क्या पिछले पांच वर्षों के अंदर सम-विश्वविद्यालयों को मान्यता प्राप्त होने की संख्या ज्यादा नहीं है? अगर ज्यादा है, तो कृपया यह भी बताएं कि इस संबंध में क्या उनके ऊपर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए जांच की बात भी सोची जा रही है? अगर ऐसा है तो बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, if I am not mistaken, the total number of deemed universities are around 125. I am talking about universities since Independence. In the last five years, 62 were created. That is part of the answer that we have given to the question that was asked.

Now, there is a reason for it and I need to explain that. Right from the Independence till 1990 or so, most universities that were created, were created either by the Central Government or the State Governments through an Act of Legislature. There was very little investment going into education.

Ever since the whole liberalisation process started and the move from physical assets to intellectual assets started, and, people realised that economic activity is going to be generated through innovations and intellectual assets, the whole focus on education changed. Suddenly, the States – which were not setting up universities – realised that there is a need to set up universities, and, therefore, there has been an enormous investment in the State sector right from 1990. There were colleges at that point in time. They realised that the college fees was controlled by the State Governments through Acts passed by the States. They wanted to get out of the system. They took recourse to Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act because if they become deemed universities, their fees were not controlled.

So, they took this route, and, thereby, these universities are flourishing. A lot of them are running these self-financing courses and are commercialising education. As long as they give excellent education, we have no problem. So, I think, this whole issue has to be looked at not in the context that anybody has failed but in the contexts of demands of the new century; where is India going to go, and, what do we need to serve our own people. I think, we must look at it not with any coloured vision. If there is something wrong, we will do something about it but much more important than that is what do we do about the education sector to meet the demands of India.

डा. राम प्रकाश : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इस प्रश्न के "ख" भाग में वह क्राइटेरिया पूछा गया है, जिससे एक यूनिवर्सिटी को डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी बनाया जा सके। यू.जी.सी. एक्ट 1956 का सेक्शन 3 कहता है "The Central Government may, on the advice of the Commission, declare, by notification in the official Gazette, that any institution of higher education, other than a University, shall be deemed to be a University..." यूनिवर्सिटी को डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी नहीं बनाना है, बल्कि हायर एजुकेशन के सेंटर को बनाया जा सकता है। मुझे यह प्रश्न सीधे तौर पर समझ में नहीं आया और इस नाते मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या एच.आर.डी. मंत्रालय ने डीम्ड टू बी यूनिवर्सिटी को डीम्ड टू बी शब्द हटा देने की अनुमति दी है, ताकि वह केवल यूनिवर्सिटी शब्द का प्रयोग कर सके? मैं आपके माध्यम से यह इसलिए जानना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि पहले डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटीज अपने नाम के साथ यूनिवर्सिटी शब्द का प्रयोग नहीं करती थीं। हिंदुस्तान की चार महान संस्थाएं, टाटा इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ सोशल साइंसेज, 1936 में बनी और 1964 में डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी का स्टेटस मिला, बिरला इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलॉजी एण्ड साइंस, पिलानी 1926 में बनी, 1964 में स्टेटस मिला, थापर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नॉलॉजी पटियाला, 1956 में बनी, 1985 में स्टेटस मिला, एन.डी.आर.आई. करनाल में 1955 में आई और 1992-93 में यह स्टेटस मिला, लेकिन इन्होंने कभी भी अपने नाम के साथ यूनिवर्सिटी शब्द का इस्तेमाल नहीं किया। आज इस शब्द का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है। जैसा कि इसमें कहा गया है, अगर वाकई में यूनिवर्सिटी, जो अच्छा काम नहीं करती, उसे डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी बनाने का कोई क्राइटेरिया हो, वह भी बताया जाए। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ थैंक यू।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there seems to be some misapprehension. Universities do not become deemed to be Universities. It is only. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. RAM PRAKASH: Then, why is this statement there? It should be modified. Please read the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you allow me to answer the questions ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, only institutions of higher learning can become deemed Universities. For example, there is a college in Tamil Nadu, which is affiliated to a university. It is an institution of higher learning. It wants to disaffiliate itself from that university and wants to be a deemed university. Then it applies to the Government and says that I am an institution of higher learning and I want to be a university. The UGC has certain regulations. It inspects the college and then decides.*(Interruptions)*...

डा. राम प्रकाश : यह मेरा सवाल ही नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please.

श्री कपिल सिबल : आप ही ने दो सवाल पूछे थे, I am answering both. Therefore, those colleges can become deemed to be universities. Now the question is, whether they can use the word 'university.' Yes, they can. The only thing is that they have to indicate underneath by which notification they have been constituted as deemed to be universities. We have written a letter dated 13th September 2006 to all deemed to be universities saying that they can use the word "university" provided they indicate that they have been established under section 3, *vide* notification such and such, and for Central or State Universities established either by Parliament or State Legislature, the year of notification. So, all institutions of higher learning, which are deemed to be universities, established by a particular notification, must notify when they advertise by which notification they have been declared as deemed to be universities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 45.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I am a new Member. I have been raising my hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Sir. We will have a detailed discussion and you will get an opportunity, because I cannot take up more than three supplementaries.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Kindly permit me also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be patient. I understand your anxiety. We will find a solution to it.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Since morning I have been raising my hand. I do not know how my name is missing.

Expansion of NREGS

*45. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: ††

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to expand the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and is working towards increasing the number of days of guaranteed employment under the Scheme;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mahendra Mohan