

Educational institutions being run purely for profit

†*128. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some private educational institutions, by resorting to education law, are being run in the country solely with the purpose of earning profit;
- (b) if so, the number of such educational institutions in the country;
- (c) whether details of such institutions have been collected by Government;
- (d) if so, whether Government is working to control such institutions; and
- (e) whether the education and future of youth has been hampered and is still being hampered by such educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) It has been stressed in National Policy on Education as well as in several judicial pronouncements that education is a not-for-profit activity and commercialization of education is to be avoided. Further, as per the UGC Act, 1956, the Commission has been empowered to take steps to ensure that no candidate secures admission to any course of study by reason of economic power and thereby prevents a more meritorious candidate from securing admission to such course of study. The UGC Act provides that no college shall accept, whether directly or indirectly, any payment otherwise than by way of fees; or any donation of gift (whether in cash or kind), from, or in relation to, any student in connection with his admission to, and prosecution of, any course of study. According to the information furnished by the UGC, the State Governments have constituted Committee for regulating admission and fee structure in respect of the private and self-financed colleges located in their respective jurisdiction.

All India Council for Technical Education have also formulated regulations for the purpose of charging of fee by technical institutions. As per these regulations State level fee committee have been constituted by the concerned State Governments which will prescribe fee to be charged by technical institutions and also monitor the implementation.

A legislative proposal for prohibiting unfair practices in higher education is under consideration of the Government.

Decline in agricultural productivity

*129. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the decreased agricultural productivity has become a concern;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.