

System in which students are taught both traditional as well as modern sciences. The Distance Education Programme of the Vidyapeeth has really benefited a large number of students from the under-privileged and weaker sections. More than 30 per cent of the students enrolled are from the reserved category. It is questionable as to how and on what basis the Review Committee has recommended the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth for de-recognition. The UGC Committee had recommended Deemed University status to the Vidyapeeth in October, 2009.

It is well-known that the education system of the European and American Universities considerably differs from the system prevalent in Indian Universities. Even then, the Government is considering establishment of foreign universities in the country.

I request the Government to seriously look into this matter of derecognition of Deemed Universities status, which was recommended by the Tandon Committee.

**Request to take steps to stop contamination of groundwater in
Erode District of Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K.V. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): The ground water in several parts of Erode District, Tamil Nadu is contaminated heavily due to indiscriminate discharge of untreated effluents by the textile and leather processing units. The ground water pollution poses serious threat to the public health. Cauvery Nagar in Erode is one of the most affected places with high level ground water pollution. The colour of water drawn from many wells is dark red. They have no other options but to use the polluted water for all purposes except drinking. They are buying packaged water for drinking purposes, use of polluted ground water has led to serious health problems. A large number of people suffer from skin related diseases. The situation is getting worse as the authorities in the district administration and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board have grossly failed to check the discharge of untreated effluents in the vacant land and the water carrying channels. Numerous protests by almost all political parties and trade unions have already been organized urging the authorities to shut down the units polluting the environment. But, their pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

I earnestly seek the Centre's immediate intervention so that the State of Tamil Nadu take steps on a war footing. If the unmindful discharge of effluents continued for more years, the ground water could not be used for any purpose. The Centre should urge the State Government to initiate concrete action against the unmindful polluting of the land and water resources.

Demand to review Unique Identification Project launched in the country

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, since May 2009, the Unique Identification UID Project is under implementation. Even though any legislation sanctioning it is yet to be passed in Parliament, the UID Authority is functioning. Sir, Rs.1950 crores have been allocated to the project. In addition to this allocation, the census expenditure has a budget of Rs.3023 crores. The Unique Identification Authority of India, UIDAI plans to use the census data to issue AADHAR numbers. The total project is estimated to cost Rs.1,50,000 crores. The budget for the Authority was passed with the Government of India annual Budget but without