

#### **Review of procedure for granting deemed university status**

2975. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether 44 deemed universities had been de-recognised due to deficiencies in their functioning and have now been issued show cause notices to present their case;
- (b) whether the de-recognition move was an indicator of irregularities in the process of awarding deemed university status to such institutions;
- (c) whether in the light of the uncertainty that has followed Government's move, the procedures for granting deemed university status are being reviewed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, the Central Government may, on the advice of the Commission, declare institutions of higher education as institutions deemed to be universities. However, as the process of declaring of institutions as deemed to be universities under the then Guidelines (2000) of the UGC were challenged before the Supreme Court [WP (C) No.142/2006: Viplov Sharma Vs. Union of India & Others] and also there was a growing public perception regarding dilution in academic standards in certain institutions deemed to be universities, the Government had ordered a review of functioning of such institutions. A Committee comprising eminent academic experts was constituted to review the functioning of existing institutions deemed to be universities to ascertain whether these institutions were indeed serving the purposes for which they were so declared and whether they complied with the conditions stipulated in the notification.

The Review Committee found 44 institutions unfit to continue as institutions deemed to be universities. The Government has, in principle, accepted the Report of the Review Committee. The Report is available in the public domain, on the Ministry's website [www.education.nic.in](http://www.education.nic.in). The issue

regarding review of institutions deemed to be universities has been linked to the Viplov Sharma matter [WP (C) 142/2006] pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the Government to maintain *status quo* as regards the 44 institutions. The matter is presently *sub judice*.

The UGC (Institutions deemed to be universities) Regulations, 2010 have come into force (w.e.f. 26/5/2010) replacing the UGC Guidelines (2000) on institutions deemed to be universities that was in force earlier.

#### **Grievance Redressal Mechanism for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme**

2976. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether spelling out zero tolerance for disruption and delay in the implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme the Ministry has written to all State Governments urging them to set up a Grievance Redressal Mechanism to keep a tab on the programme;

(b) whether catering to nearly 11 crore school children across the country, the scheme has often come into news with reports of students complaining about food quality;

(c) if so, whether attempting to check these instances, the Ministry has detailed all the modalities to ensure transparency in the grievance redressal process; and

(d) if so, the other main suggestions made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some complaints regarding serving of unhygienic/sub-standard/adulterated food under MDM are received through individuals and news reports.

(c) and (d) The recently issued guidelines suggest various possible modes of registration, redressal and monitoring the redressal of grievances. The States/UTs have the flexibility to choose