

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Levying of capitation fee is against the national policy as well as rulings of the Apex Court. There is no information which could conclude that there is any increasing trend over the years towards charging of huge capitation fee or misleading of students in the higher educational institutions.

A legislative proposal namely 'The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010' has been circulated in Parliament. This is with a view to address the problem of unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and Universities and to protect interests of students admitted or seeking admission therein.

Semester system in higher education

3424. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the semester system of examinations is a big educational reform in itself; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to adopt and implement it in institutions of higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Universities have autonomy in academic matters including the introduction of the Semester System. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has written to Vice Chancellors of all Universities and institutions deemed to be universities to implement a slew of academic reforms in higher education including the introduction of semester system. Section 6(2) of the Central Universities Act, 2009, makes it obligatory on the new Central Universities to implement certain academic reform measures including the Semester System. The introduction of the semester system in conjunction with other reform resources would ensure greater choice in learning besides enabling student mobility across institutions.

Private engineering colleges

3425. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that private engineering colleges in the country are not properly controlled and regulated by the concerned universities to which they are affiliated and the AICTE with the result that they have created chaotic conditions;

(b) if so, what mechanism and measures are envisaged to regulate them;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that they don't have adequate qualified faculty and infrastructure facilities; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to appoint qualified staff and provide infrastructural facilities?