

New Universities in J&K

687. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a consequence of Confidence Building Measures (CBM), the number of students willing to prosecute higher studies in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to increase in the ensuing academic session;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to set up any new Universities or Deemed Universities in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A University may be set up either by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature. An Institution is granted the Status of a Deemed to be University by the Central Government on the advice of the UGC under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

A new University namely—Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajauri, Jammu & Kashmir has been established by the State Legislature of the Jammu & Kashmir. The Central Government has also approved, in principle, the establishment of 14 Degree Colleges in the State.

Deemed University Status

688. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rejected the plea of 54 educational institutions for conferring the Deemed University Status; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of 90 applications received for the above purpose, the applications of remaining 36 institutions are under consideration for granting Deemed University status; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it had received 97 proposals for grant of Deemed to be University status. A Screening Committee constituted by the UGC has recommended the visit by UGC's Expert Committee to 19 institutions. As many as 66 proposals were not found suitable for visit by its Expert Committee.

Unrecognized private universities in Kerala

689. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private universities, unrecognized by Government are functioning in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of students who have got themselves registered in the above universities; and

(c) whether Government consider to introduce any alternative arrangements for continuation of studies of the students involved in the private universities in view of the Supreme Court's judgement and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No centralized data is being maintained in this regard.

(c) The Supreme Court of India has *vide* its judgement dated 11 February, 2004 in W.P. (C) No. 19/2004: Prof. Yash Pal & Ors. Vs. State of Chhattisgarh & Ors., directed the State of Chhattisgarh to take steps for giving affiliation to institutions of the Private Universities established under the Chhattisgarh Niji Kshetra Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana Aur Viniyaman) Adhiniyam, 2002 by the already existing State Universities.

In view of above, the Chhattisgarh Government has been requested to inform whether any specific intervention is required to be taken by the Government of India in the matter. The UGC has also been requested to examine the judgement and its implications, particularly for the bonafide students enrolled with these "universities" so that, should the need arise, the Commission could be requested to take appropriate steps in the matter.