

University with effect from the academic session 2010-11 after due approval of its statutory bodies, viz. Academic Council and Executive Council. The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has been protesting against introduction of semester system in the University. The University of Delhi is a statutory autonomous body established by an Act of Parliament and governed by the Delhi University Act, 1922 and the Statutes and Ordinances framed thereunder. As the University enjoys full autonomy, it is within its competence to enforce its decision.

Commercialisation of education

†*142. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that commercialisation of education is taking place rapidly;
- (b) if so, the detail is thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to check this commercialisation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) 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. The National Policy on Education 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary efforts in education, while preventing establishment of institutions which intend to commercialise education. Several pronouncements of the Supreme Court of India have also cautioned against commercialization of education while reasonable surplus for institutional development is permissible.

Government has taken several steps to curb commercialization of education. Section 13 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 clearly prohibits collection of any capitation fee. As regards higher educational institutions, a legislative proposal namely "The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010" has already been introduced in the Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 studies 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 students in connection with his admission to, and prosecution of, any course of study.

Impact of floods and drought on agriculture products

*143. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment about the losses suffered by States and farmers due to the recent floods in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to extend the required financial and other assistance to the affected States;

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of districts were also adversely affected due to drought during the last kharif season; and

(e) if so, the details of the districts and the losses suffered by each district and the nature of assistance given by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) As per information available from the States, a number of them faced heavy rains and floods during 2010. Details of human lives lost, loss of cattle, houses damaged and damage to crops during 2010 due to various natural calamities, as reported by the States, are indicated in the Statement-I (See below).

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities from the funds available in their State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), to which the Government of India and State Governments concerned contribute. First installment of Central share of SDRF for 2010-11 has been released to all the States to enable them take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States with financial, logistic and other support. Additional assistance is considered for