

of the UGC Act is empowered to grant or confer degrees, the degrees obtained from fake educational institutions are not valid for further education and employment.

(d) The UGC has taken legal action in various courts against six of these fake universities whereas, the State Governments have initiated action against certain fake universities. Show-cause notices have also been served by the UGC to some of these fake universities. With a view to check the functioning of fake universities, wide publicity is given by the UGC every year through print/electronic media as well as on their official website, cautioning students and parents not to take admission in such institutions. A public 'Appeal' was issued by the Ministry sometime back that students must satisfy themselves that courses offered by institutions are recognized under the relevant laws and are of quality and repute and that in case of any doubt, necessary clarification may be obtained from the relevant statutory bodies, such as the UGC, AICTE. The State/UT Governments have also been advised, from time to time, to issue necessary instructions to the District/Police Administration to take immediate action against such institutions. The last such communication was issued at the level of Minister of Human Resource Development on 2nd May, 2011.

#### **New Central Universities**

2093. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while establishing new Central Universities in the recent past, watered-down versions of Central Universities have been created with lack of certain major disciplines and resident Vice-Chancellors; and

(b) if so, the details of disciplines missing and the names of Universities in which Vice-Chancellors are non-residents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, 16 new Central Universities have been established, including 3 State Universities converted to Central Universities. All these universities, except Central University of Jammu where the first Vice-Chancellor has assumed office only on 8.8.2011, are functional. The University Grants Commission has so far released Rs. 869.69 crores for infrastructural development and recruitment of teaching and

non-teaching staff. All newly established Universities, who have been allotted land, have started construction work. The UGC has also allowed these universities to open upto 20 Departments as per their local needs and aspirations by the end of this year without seeking its approval. Central Universities, being autonomous bodies, are required to choose appropriate disciplines through its statutory bodies. The Vice-Chancellors of all these Universities are residing at the location/temporary headquarters of the Universities.

#### **Common Admission Test for all degree courses**

2094. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to conduct a common admission test for all degree courses in the country;
- (b) whether it will be mandatory for all the States and colleges to conduct admissions based on the rank list prepared after this test; and
- (c) whether the move will affect the autonomy of universities in regulating their admissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While it is ideal to have a unified admission test for admission to higher education for all students, it is a great challenge, considering the huge diversity of education systems in the country. The underlying principle for having such a common admission test system is motivated by the principle of inclusion for collaborative: excellence rather than exclusion through competitive excellence. The challenge becomes formidable in view of the fact that some higher education systems in the country are under control of Central Government while others are either controlled by state governments or owned by private entities. Compelling the state owned and controlled and privately owned institutions is ruled out in view of federal nature of our polity and due to the fact that education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. It is impossible to mandate the states and colleges to adopt such a uniform system and therefore states need lot of persuasion. Similar situation prevails in universities also since they are autonomous entities and admissions are presently governed by the statutes and ordinances of the respective universities.

#### **Funds and targets for education**

2095. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: