

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: I am from Maharashtra, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody is disputing that. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, agitation is on in Maharashtra. Farmers have been dying. Even then if you don't allow any Member from Maharashtra to ask ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then why didn't you ask the question in the first instance? ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Right from the time the question was asked, I have been raising my hand, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: A supplementary is a matter of chance and courtesy. It is not a right. Question No. 302.

#### **Parameters for approval of private universities**

\*302. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held any meetings for evolving parameters to approve private universities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof during the last four years alongwith the decision taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) and (b) Private Universities can be established either by the Central Government by an Act of Parliament or by the State Governments by an Act of State Legislature. All the private universities existing in the country have been set up by the Acts of State Legislature and the norms and parameters to establish Private Universities are decided by the State Governments concerned. However, University Grants Commission (UGC) has powers to frame Regulations for determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examinations and research in universities, including private universities. Neither the UGC nor the Ministry of Human Resource Development have any powers to approve or disapprove a private university duly set up by a State through a State Act.

Meetings of the Expert Committee constituted by the UGC to define the parameters for evaluation of a State Private University and also to prepare a Proforma for the use of the Expert Committees visiting State Private Universities, were held on 12th March, 2011, 17th April, 2011 and 21st August, 2012. The above Committee finalized the format of the letter to be sent to State Private Universities after receipt of the Act, format for submission of information by State Private Universities to the UGC for Inspection purposes, procedure for inspection of State Private Universities and format for preparation of report by the UGC Expert Committees visiting State Private Universities.

Out of a total of 145 private universities, 98 have been established in the last four years. UGC has completed inspection of 53 private universities.

**श्री मोहम्मद अली खान :** चेयरमैन साहब, वजीर-ए-मोसूफ ने थोड़ी तफ़सील से अपना जवाब रखा कि प्राइवेट यूनिवर्सिटीज़ को क़ायम करने के लिए यूजीसी के ज़रिए पैमाना रखा गया है। इन्होंने अपने जवाब में बताया कि पूरे भारत में 150 प्राइवेट यूनिवर्सिटीज़ हैं और यूजीसी के ओहदेदारों ने अब तक सिर्फ़ 53 यूनिवर्सिटीज़ का मुआयना किया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनमें से कितनी यूनिवर्सिटीज़ यूजीसी के हिसाब से सही हैं और कितनी यूनिवर्सिटीज़ ने यूजीसी के गाइडलाइंस को नज़रअंदाज़ किया है? अगर उन्होंने यूजीसी के गाइडलाइंस को नज़रअंदाज़ किया है, तो फिर सरकार ने उनके खिलाफ़ क्या कार्रवाई की है, वजीर-ए-मोसूफ़ बताने की कोशिश करें?

†[جناب محمد علی خان : چیئرمین صاحب، وزیر موصوف نے تھوڑی تفصیل سے اپنا جواب رکھا کہ پرائیویٹ یونیورسٹیز کو قائم کرنے کے لئے یوجی-سی کے ذریعے پیمانہ رکھا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے اپنے جواب میں بتایا کہ پورے بھارت میں 150 پرائیویٹ یونیورسٹیز ہیں اور یوجی-سی کے عہدیداروں نے اب تک صرف 53 یونیورسٹیز کا معائنہ کیا ہے۔ میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ان میں سے کتنی یونیورسٹیز یوجی-سی کے حساب سے صحیح ہیں اور کتنی یونیورسٹیز نے یوجی-سی کی گائڈ لائنس کو نظر انداز کیا ہے؟ اگر انہوں نے اسے نظر انداز کیا ہے، تو پھر سرکار نے ان کے خلاف کیا کارروائی کی ہے، یہ وزیر موصوف بتائے گی  
کوشش کریں؟ ]

†[ ]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the UGC has inspected about 53 universities and it has found about 5 to be in order. Once we get some complaints about these universities, we do give them some time to rectify whatever are the shortcomings and even after the rectification if they do not meet the norms, the standards and the regulations, then the UGC has the power to ask them to close some of their courses. But the UGC has no power to close the universities.

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान : चेयरमैन सर, पूरे भारत में जितनी यूनिवर्सिटीज़ हैं, उनमें से सबसे ज्यादा यूनिवर्सिटीज़ साउथ में तमिलनाडु, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, कर्णाटक, महाराष्ट्र और केरल में हैं। खुसूसन आन्ध्र प्रदेश में यूजीसी ने पढ़ाने की जो टेक्निक रखी है, वह यूजीसी के स्टैंडर्ड से कम है। अख़बारों के ज़रिए या वहां के बच्चों के ज़रिए ये मालूमात हुए हैं। इसी वजह से बच्चे तालीम हासिल करने के बाद अपनी मुलाज़मतों के लिए जहां पर जाते हैं, वहां उन बच्चों को उनके स्टैंडर्ड के हिसाब से कम होने की वजह से मुलाज़मतों में दुश्वारी हो रही है। मैं वज़ीर-ए-मौसूफ़ को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि तालीम हासिल करने के बाद भी बच्चों के साथ दुश्वारी हो रही है और यूजीसी के गाइडलाइंस को नज़रअंदाज़ करके यूनिवर्सिटीज़ बच्चों को तालीम दे रही हैं, जिनका दारोमदार आपने रियासती हुकूमत पर छोड़ा है। मुलाज़मतों में उन बच्चों के मुस्तक़बिल के लिए जो दुश्वारी पैदा हो रही है, क्या सरकार ने इस तरफ कुछ तवज्जह की है और उस दुश्वारी को यूजीसी और मरकज़ी सरकार की जानिब से हल करने का कोई पैमाना बनाया है?

† جناب محمد علی خان : چیئرمین سر، پورے بھارت میں جتنی یونیورسٹیز ہیں، ان میں سب سے زیادہ یونیورسٹیز ساؤتھ میں تمل ناڈو، آندھرا پردیش، کرناٹک، مہاراشٹر اور کیڑل میں ہیں۔ خصوصاً آندھرا پردیش میں یو جی سی نے پڑھانے کی جو ٹیکنیک رکھی ہے، وہ یو جی سی کے اسٹینڈرڈ سے کم ہے۔ اخبارات کے ذریعے یا وہاں کے بچوں کے ذریعے یہ معلومات حاصل ہوئی ہیں۔ اسی وجہ سے بچے تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے بعد اپنی ملازمتوں کے لئے جہاں پر جاتے ہیں، وہاں ان بچوں کو ان کے اسٹینڈرڈ کے حساب سے کم ہونے کی وجہ سے ملازمتوں میں دشواری ہو رہی ہے۔ میں وزیر موصوف کو یہ بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے بعد بھی بچوں کے ساتھ دشواری ہو رہی ہے اور یو جی سی کی گائیڈ لائنس کو نظر انداز کر کے یونیورسٹیز، بچوں کو تعلیم دے رہی ہیں، جن کا دارومدار آپ نے، ریاستی حکومت پر چھوڑا ہے۔ ملازمتوں میں ان بچوں کے مستقبل کے لئے جو دشواری پیدا ہو رہی ہے، کیا سرکار نے اس طرف کچھ توجہ کی ہے اور اس دشواری کو یو جی سی اور مرکزی سرکار کی جانب سے حل کرنے کا کوئی پیمانہ بنایا ہے؟

†[ Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the hon. Member is right; a number of complaints regarding malpractices in education are coming to our notice. That is why we have brought before Parliament the Unfair Practices Bill and I would take this opportunity to urge on hon. Members of Parliament to pass this Bill so that we can take action on these universities or institutions following malpractices. Similarly, there is another Bill, which is Regulatory Authority Bill, which seeks to make it mandatory for all universities and institutions to get accredited. That would also help in dealing with such malpractices.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Minister, if you kindly see your reply, out of 145 private universities, 98 have been established in the last four years and you have inspected only 53 universities. Obviously, we need to have private input in university education. But many are plain selling shops. Now what is happening is that they establish universities, they admit students, take high capitation fees; you don't complete the inspection, and, thereafter, poor students are left in the lurch pleading to litigation. I know your regulatory mechanism is on the anvil. But the larger issue remains there. Are you going to take some firmer step on behalf of the UGC, or, is the UGC itself not very competent in view of the enormity of the work pressure which is there? I think you cannot. For us, the most important thing is two fold — excellence of standards and future of students. I regret to say that many universities were cleared in 1998. Almost a kind of mushrooming growth is there. How do you see this problem and what response would you like to give to this House?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I am glad that the hon. Member has mirrored the concern of the Government that we need to focus on the quality and standards in education. Hon. Member's observation is right that a number of private universities have come up in the last four years. I feel that the responsibility of ensuring the quality and standards in education has to be taken both by the Centre and the States. The universities can only be established by an Act of Parliament or the State Legislature. Beyond that, it is the UGC which sets the norms, standards and also the manner in which the universities should offer the courses. Once it receives any information of malpractice or complaint of not meeting the standards, the UGC does send its inspection team and it also does guide the university to rectify. And, after that, it can only direct the institution to close the course against which complaints are there. Now, if we pass these Bills, then, I think, it would strengthen the mechanism

of ensuring the standards. The UGC will be strengthened, and, parallel to this, we are trying to bring the...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But what is the UGC doing? Have you closed any university or any course in any private university? Please tell the House. It is a matter of great concern. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I have just explained to you that the UGC can only direct that certain courses are to be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chandan, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Those Bills are very different and we have to debate those Bills. Don't take recourse to the Bills and say that they are solution to the problems. There are major lacunae...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chandan Mitra, it is not your turn. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I am only saying that those Bills will strengthen the cause of ensuring that there is quality in education, and, as far as the UGC is concerned, it does not have the power to close down any university. It can only direct the universities or the institutions to close courses which are of dubious nature or which do not meet the standards. Now, these universities have been formed according to the UGC Regulations, 2003. There are new regulations which are being formed, namely, the UGC Regulations, 2012. Once these regulations come in, I think, there would be more stringent standards against the norms under which universities can be established.

Sir, I would like to compliment the State of Himachal Pradesh, which has come up with a separate Act for bringing out a regulatory authority to regulate the standards. So, I think, this is the thing, which the States can do to ensure that there is standard in education.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, the quality of higher education is a matter of serious concern. The hon. Prime Minister, in his speech in 2009, said that ninety per cent of the university education quality is very poor. In 2004, the hon. Supreme Court, in the case of Prof. Yashpal v. State of Chhattisgarh, said that there should be stringent measures taken by the UGC to inspect and control the universities for ensuring the quality of education. But, Sir, the answer shows that even after all these things, out of 145 universities, only 53 were inspected by the UGC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: My question is: whether the UGC will take urgent steps to complete the investigation within six months, and, till that time, whether the establishment of foreign and private universities will be kept on hold.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the question here does not relate to the foreign universities. Sir, there are 145 private universities, and, as I said, we will, the UGC will definitely ensure that all steps are taken to expedite the investigation into the malpractices or complaints of not meeting the norms by the universities. But, parallel to this, I think, the States also should do much more as I am sure that the States are equally concerned about the quality and standards of education. Sir, I feel that the States should play a more pro-active role in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Karan Singh. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री बसावराज पाटिल : सभापति जी, ...(व्यवधान)... सर, पीछे जो बैठे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)... देखिए, प्लीज़ ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, यह बड़ा सीरियस क्वेश्चन है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आपने अभी सवाल पूछा है। ...(व्यवधान)... Please ...(*Interruptions*)... I have an obligation to rotate questions.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, one thing is clear that we do need a rapid expansion in our University system because of the growth in the Twelfth Plan of the entire educational pyramid. I must, first of all, declare my interest. I happen to be Chairman of a State Central University as well as a Private University. There are some very fine private Universities that have been set up. But, as has been said, there are also sub-standard ones. Sir, my view is that the UGC is not being able to grapple with the situation. For one thing, the UGC needs to be strengthened. Very often we have the UGC without a full-time head. You remember, people like C.D. Deshmukh and others used to be Chairman of the UGC. Dr. Manmohan Singh himself was the Chairman of the UGC. I think the UGC needs to be strengthened, streamlined and where necessary, given more staff and it should become really the focus for maintaining standards. The States can also do it. Will the Minister be pleased to tell us whether any steps are being taken to strengthen the UGC and improve its functioning?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I thank Dr. Karan Singh for his observations. He has been so committed to the cause of education. I am sure that his commitment finds a reflection in the way this Ministry is functioning. The UGC is the regulatory authority through which the Central Government enforces its vigilance on the whole subject of education. I agree that it needs to be strengthened. We are working towards it. We will definitely take suggestions from all the hon. Members towards strengthening the UGC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Question 303. ...(*Interruptions*)...

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल : सर, मेरी पार्टी के 15 सांसदों में से अकेला मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary question is not a party right.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: I know, Sir. लेकिन, आपकी कर्टसी की मर्सी कभी इधर भी हो सकती है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : सवाल हर तरफ रोटेट होते हैं। अगर आपको दिलचस्पी हो, तो आपको डेटा दिखाया जा सकता है। यह सेलेक्टिविटी की बात नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... Please ...(*Interruptions*)...

#### **Misuse of Section 66A of the IT Act**

\*303. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Section 66A of the IT Act is prone to misuse by law enforcement agencies;

(b) whether the said Section goes beyond the parameters of restriction of speech set out under Article 19 of the Constitution of India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to amend the Section so that it is not misused by police and other law enforcement agencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) No, Sir. Section 66A was provided in the Information Technology Act,