

- (xi) Preparation of a comprehensive contingency Medical Plan to deal with any untoward situation.

(c) and (d) Compensation of Rs. 1.50 Lakh under the non-natural calamities category and Rs. 0.50 Lakh under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund has been given to the parents of each of the 23 deceased children by the District Administration, Saran.

### **Policy on commercialisation of education**

†1318. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy to check increasing commercialisation of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has consistently held the view that education in India is not regarded as a commercial activity and that all educational institutions have to be set up in the "not for profit" mode. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary efforts in Education, while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to commercialise Education. The Policy envisages that in the interest of maintaining standards and for several other valid reasons, the commercialisation of technical and professional education will be curbed. An alternative system will be devised to involve private and voluntary efforts in Education, in conformity with accepted norms and goals.

The Government has taken several initiatives to curb the commercialisation of education. Section 13 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 clearly prohibits the collection of any capitation fee. As regards 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 already been introduced in Parliament.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.