

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The Government of India has launched a new initiative *i.e* the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) under the National Rural Health Mission. The school health component gets subsumed under the RBSK. This initiative aims to screen and manage children from birth to 18 years of age for defects at birth, deficiencies, diseases, developmental delays including disabilities. All newborns born at public health facilities and at home are screened for birth defects by health personnel and ASHAs respectively, between six weeks to six years of age at Anganwadi centres and between six years to 18 years of age who are enrolled in Government and Government aided schools by Mobile Block Health Teams. The children with identified health conditions are referred to the appropriate facility for further interventions.

At present there are 4844 dedicated block level mobile health teams providing early screening of children both in anganwadis and schools. During the F.Y 2013-14, a total of 3.45 crore children including school children were screened by RBSK teams and 12 lakh children were identified with health conditions and referred to the health facilities for further management.

The MHRD has written to the Education Departments of all States for coordination with NRHM for effective implementation of RBSK. The implementation of the RBSK is reviewed by the Joint Review Missions for Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) during their visit to the States. The representatives of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are involved with the Governance structures of the MDMS at all levels to ensure proper coordination in this regard.

#### **Rising cost of education**

1924.DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey by ASSOCHAM has recently reported that the rising cost of education has become a major cause of worry for parents;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken/being taken by Government to check the high cost of education system prevalent in universities and technical educational institutions in the country, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Education in India is treated as a not-for profit activity. Pursuant to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the *Islamic Academy of Education Vs the State of Karnataka* and *T.M.A Pai Foundation Vs the State of Karnataka*, Fee Fixation Committees have been set up by different State Governments. The private universities in India are also regulated as per the provisions of the University Grants Commission (UGC) (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities), 2003.

The UGC has also issued the UGC (Institutions Deemed-to- be Universities) Regulations 2010. Para 6.5 of these Regulations provides that, "The level of the fees charged for the courses offered in deemed-to-be universities shall have a reasonable relation to the cost of running the course. The fee structure shall be displayed in the prospectus and on the institution's website".

The Government has also introduced the Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010 in the Lok Sabha which provides for the prohibition of certain unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities including private colleges and universities to protect the interest of the students admitted and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It also provides for criminal liability and civil penalties for charging capitation fee or donations or for charging fees over and above what is disclosed in the prospectus or the website.

In order to help the students from poor families, SCs, STs and minorities etc., the Government is administering several fellowship and scholarship schemes. The Government has also started a scheme for providing full interest subsidy on loans taken by students for higher education, since 2007. The scheme is applicable to all those students whose parental income is less than Rs. 4.5 lakhs per annum, who have taken education loans for higher education.

#### **Tie-up between Indian and foreign universities**

1925. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: