

bodies created under the relevant Acts, Statutes and Ordinances. In cases of private universities, the fees are fixed by the university itself subject to the fees fixed by the Fee Fixation Committees appointed by the State Governments in case of technical or professional programmes.

- (vii) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued the UGC Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities, 2003. Para 3.9 of these regulations provide that "the admission procedure and fixation of fees shall be in accordance with the norms/guidelines prescribed by the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies. 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.
- (viii) The UGC has informed that it monitors the standards of education imparted by institutions deemed to be universities and private universities through visits of Expert Committee, which include representatives of the concerned statutory council(s) for on the spot assessment of the infrastructure and other facilities available with the Universities. The reports of these committees include observations on the fee structure. In case the committees find that the fee structure is unusually high, the institutions are asked to submit clarification/ justification.

Restructuring of UGC

20. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to restructure and refocus the University Grants Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what are the assignments Government would give to UGC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee was constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to suggest amendments in the UGC Act, 1956 which has recommended certain amendments to the Act. Further, the Government is contemplating constitution of a high level committee of experts of suggest a comprehensive restructuring and revamping of the UGC to strengthen the regulatory framework in higher education for promoting access, equity, quality and employability in the sector.