

(c) if not, the reasons for this funding/ amount going through three channels; and

(d) the plan of Government to send this amount directly?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Prior to 2014-15, the Central Share under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme was released to State Implementing Societies (SIS) of all States/UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir. As per the revised norms issued from the Ministry of Finance, the Central Share is released to State governments/UT administrations directly from 2014-15, who are, in turn, required to transfer the funds to SIS of SSA, within a period of 15 days.

**Action against private/deemed universities**

1571. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action/punitive action taken by the University Grants Commission (UGC) against the private and deemed universities across the nation; and

(b) the grounds on which the action was taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Private Universities are regulated by UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. As per Clause 5 of the above Regulations, UGC may take necessary action against the Private Universities in case of violation of the Regulations. In consonance with the provisions of the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, the UGC, with the help of Expert Committees which include representatives from the concerned Statutory Council(s), has conducted on the spot inspection of 111 out of 208 private universities to assess whether the Private Universities are fulfilling the minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc., as laid down from time to time by the UGC and other concerned Statutory Bodies/Councils. The Expert Committees have pointed out some deficiencies in the infrastructure and availability of qualified faculty. The UGC has asked these Private Universities to rectify these deficiencies.

Initially, Deemed to be Universities were governed and functioned under the provisions of UGC Guidelines, 2000. As per Clause 11 of the Guidelines, the Central Government/UGC can conduct an inspection of the Institution Deemed to be University with regard to its buildings, laboratories, its examinations, teaching and other work conducted or done by them. Accordingly, the UGC Expert Committees conducted onsite

visits of 124 Institutions Deemed to be Universities in the year 2009 with respect to maintenance of standards, especially with regard to the availability of qualified faculty and infrastructure and found that infrastructure was inadequate in 8 Deemed to be Universities and faculty was inadequate in 25 Deemed to be Universities. These Deemed to be Universities were asked to rectify their deficiencies. Presently, Deemed to be Universities are being regulated by UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010 and its subsequent amendments in 2014 and 2015.

However, UGC has informed that no punitive action has been taken by them in respect of Private Universities and Deemed to be Universities.

#### **Opening of university in South Kashmir**

†1572. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has plans to open any university in South Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the plan of Government to take action for encouraging higher education in South Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Constitution, Education as a subject is on the Concurrent List (List III) of the Seventh Schedule. Hence setting up new universities and other institutions is the responsibility of both the State and Central Government. Central government has already opened two Central Universities in Jammu and Kashmir; one in Jammu and the second in Kashmir. Now, there is no plan to open any further Central University in South Kashmir or in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, recognizing the needs of higher education, the Central Government has launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), which seeks to expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establish new institutions in order to correct regional imbalances and provide access to quality education in unserved and underserved areas.

Based on the State Higher Education Plan (SHEP) submitted by the state of Jammu and Kashmir under RUSA, the Central Government has approved setting up of two universities by clustering of colleges at Srinagar and Jammu. In addition, two new professional colleges at Kathua and Ganderbal; upgradation of existing

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.