

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

reviewed by Government in consultation with them. It is relevant to add that the autonomy of the IIMs was given through a Cabinet decision in 1994. According to this decision, the IIMs can take decisions on matters related to fees on their own. This decision continues to be in force and has not been revised till date. All the Memoranda of Association of the IIMs also contain provision vesting the authority of fixing fees to their respective Governing Bodies/Societies. As such, neither under the Cabinet decision nor under the Memoranda of Association, the matter of fixing of fees falls within the jurisdiction of the Government. It has accordingly been decided to withdraw the Ministry's order dated 5th February, 2004, *vide* orders dated 29th June, 2004. It has also been ensured that the students who are able to pay full fees will be assisted, if need be, for obtaining loans, but the students whose family income are below Rs. 2 lakh will not have to pay any tuition fees. It means that instead of Rs. 30,000/- fees which everyone was supposed to pay, the poor students have been given a total fee waiver and those who can afford to pay will pay the normal fees.

Global Mega University Network

23. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering of a Global Mega University Network to promote mutual understanding, academic solidarity and to explore the ways of co-operation among the member universities of the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a meeting of the Presidents, Rectors and Vice-Chancellors of the Mega Universities of the world was held recently in Shanghai to discuss various aspects of the issue; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by UGC no proposal for Global Mega University Network has been received.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.