

Substandard technical education by Private Universities

1790. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state how does the Ministry wish to tackle the proliferation of Private Universities which are providing substandard technical education to the youth who may not benefit from education at all, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): Private Deemed to be Universities are regulated by recently notified University Grants Commission (UGC) as per the provisions of UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016. The Regulations contain the stringent eligibility criteria and procedure for setting up Private Deemed to be Universities. The Regulations also prescribe provisions to ensure quality and standard of education in Private Deemed to be Universities. During the last three years, no new Private Deemed to be University has been established.

State Private Universities are established by the Act of respective State Legislature. They are regulated by their respective State Acts and the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. As per the Regulations, the UGC Expert Committee conducts inspection of Private Universities to ensure quality of education, research, etc and deficiencies, if any, observed during inspection are communicated to the respective Universities for rectification.

Action plan for children of Kashmir Valley

1791. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place any special action plan for the children of Kashmir valley where schools are either closed or burnt down thus making their future bleak, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and what action Government proposes to take to protect the rights of the children of Kashmir valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) The School Education Department of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has categorized the schools in terms of threat perceptions into three categories *viz.* normal, sensitive and hypersensitive and all sensitive and hypersensitive schools have been provided round the clock watch and ward staff by redeploying the available manpower of education department. Further, the School Education Department is considering various options to hold additional classes during winters to compensate the loss suffered by the students during the unrest.