

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Return of certificates and tuition fee by engineering colleges**

*231. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that engineering colleges are reluctant to return the certificates of students who discontinue their studies in the middle of courses and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether All India Council for Technical Education has issued guidelines to such colleges directing them to return the certificates and tuition fee of such students;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has made any statutory provisions for such colleges to comply with those guidelines and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some incidences of engineering colleges showing reluctance to return the certificates of those enrolled students, who discontinue their studies in between the courses, have come to the notice of the Government. Taking cognizance of this fact, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has included a clause in AICTE Approval Process Handbook 2017-18 which directs engineering institutes approved by AICTE to refund the fee collected from the students in those cases where the seat falling vacant has been subsequently filled by another candidate by the last date of admission, after deducting the processing fee of not more than ₹ 1,000/- and proportionate monthly fee and hostel rent, wherever applicable. The clause also prohibits the AICTE approved technical institutes from retaining the School/Institute Leaving Certificates. The above stated provisions are available on AICTE website at http://www.aicte-india.org/downloads/Final-Approval-Process-Handbook-2017_18.pdf.

Further, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified a regulation on remittance and return of fees and other student centric issues according to which no institution of higher education shall insist upon a student to submit the original and personal certificates and testimonials like mark-sheets, school leaving certificates and other such documents at the time of submitting admission form. The regulation is available on UGC website at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdf/news/5681274_Fee-Refund-Notification.pdf.