GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 984 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

Facilities in Private Coaching Centers

984 Shri Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan: Smt. Darshana Singh:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of increasing student suicides cases, fire incidents and deficiencies in facilities and teaching methodologies with respect to the private coaching centers operating across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has issued any specific instruction for the functioning of coaching centers across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such centers are charging exorbitant fees from the students and also engaged in other malpractices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government against such erring coaching institutes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): Keeping in view the growth in number of unregulated private coaching centers in the country in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation; instances of such centers charging exorbitant fees from students; undue stress on students resulting in students committing suicides, loss of precious lives due to fire and other accidents, and many other malpractices being adopted by these centres; Ministry of Education has circulated a Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centers to States/UTs on 16.01.2024 for consideration by way of appropriate legal framework.

The Guidelines encompass several key aspects, including defining coaching centers, specifying conditions and necessary documents for registration, issues related to fees, outlining infrastructure prerequisites for establishing coaching centers, establishing a code of conduct for coaching centers; lay emphasis on significance of mental well-being, advocating for the prioritization of counsellors and psychologists' support within coaching centres; no batch segregation; maintenance of records etc.

The guidelines, inter-alia, stipulate continuous monitoring of activities of the coaching center; introducing a complaint mechanism and disposal thereof; penalties; process for cancellation of registration and appeals etc. The guidelines also provides that the fee charged for courses / curriculum shall be fair and reasonable; under no circumstances the fee shall be increased during the currency of the course; easy exit policy and refund of fee on pro-rata basis; coaching classes for

those students who are also studying in institutions / schools shall not be conducted during their institutions / schools' hours, so that their regular attendance in such institutions / schools remains unaffected and also to avoid dummy schools.

Education being in the concurrent list, the State and UT Governments need to take further action by way of appropriate legal framework.
