

Curbing malpractices in educational institutions

3241. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTs Kanpur, Kharagpur, Delhi, Mumbai, Roorkee, Chennai, Guwahati have recently sold a large number of their prospectus including admission forms at unreasonable prices for admission to M. Tech. and postgraduate programmes without mentioning the cut-off marks of admission and earned a lot of money unscrupulously by rejecting the applications; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take action for curbing malpractices in the educational institutions and advise them to return the money to those students who have not even been called for interview or written test for admission in the above courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per information obtained from NTs, they are charging very moderate fees, which covers cost of Information Brochure, application form, processing fee and Admission Test/Interviews that they conduct. This fee has not been increased in most cases over the last few years, inspite of increase in material and other costs. Names of candidates offered admission are published on the Websites of NTs with their GATE Registration Numbers. This gives enough idea for the candidates about the possible cut-off to decide whether to apply or not.

(b) The number of candidates not eligible to be called for interview is not very large. However, application fee is being refunded wherever the request for issue of application form was received late.

Special assistance to women belonging to disadvantaged sections

3242. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

[22 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether any measures and programmes have been undertaken to provide special assistance to women belonging to disadvantaged sections such as disabled, widows, elderly women, deserted women etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Women and Child Development has taken various measures and launched a number of programmes in the areas of welfare and support services, training and capacity building and employment and income generation for women, including women belonging to disadvantaged sections.

Some of the major initiatives/programmes in this regard are:

- (i) **Swadhar Scheme:** The Scheme covers, among others, widows deserted by their families and relatives and left uncared for near religious places where they become victims of exploitation, women survivors of natural disaster or women victims of terrorist/extremist violence who have been rendered homeless and are without any social or economic support, mentally challenged women (except for the psychotic categories who require care in specialized environment in mental hospitals) who are without any support of family or relatives. The objective of the Scheme is to provide the primary needs of shelter, food, clothing and care to such marginalized women living in difficult circumstances. Clinical and legal support and counselling are also provided.
- (ii) **Short Stay Homes:** Under this Scheme, temporary shelter is provided to women and girls who, as a result of family tension or discord, are made to leave their homes without any means of subsistence and have no social protection from exploitation and are facing litigation on account of marital disputes or those who are victims of mental maladjustments, emotional disturbances and social ostracism or those who have escaped from their homes due to family problems including mental or physical torture and need shelter, psychiatric treatment and counselling for rehabilitation and readjustment in family and society.

- (iii) Hostels for Working Women: Under this Scheme, financial assistance is given to voluntary organizations, local bodies, Women's Development Corporation, educational institutions, Public Sector Undertakings etc. for the construction of hostels for working women in order to enable them to seek employment and participate in technical training. There is a 3% reservation of accommodation in the hostels constructed under the Scheme for women with disabilities.
- (iv) Socio-Economic Programme: The Central Social Welfare Board implements the Socio-Economic Programme (SEP) which endeavours to provide employment opportunities on full or part-time basis to destitute women, widows, deserted women and physically handicapped women to supplement their meagre family income.
- (v) Besides the above, under the scheme for skill upgradation and for employment-cum-income generation such as 'Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP)', the target group covered are marginalized, assetless rural women and urban poor and women belonging to various dispossessed groups.

Further details in regard to the above schemes and programmes can be accessed at the Department's website *www.wcd.nic.in*.

The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 2001 envisages measures and programmes to be undertaken to provide special assistance to disadvantaged groups of women, among others, those in extreme poverty, destitute women, the disabled, widows, elderly women, deserted women etc.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a number of programmes and measures for the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities and older persons, including women. The details are available at that Ministry's website *www.socialjustice.nic.in*.