

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3800
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
FAKE ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some fake and unrecognised educational institutions tend to allure people through their advertisements in newspapers;
- (b) if so, whether the Government verify the genuineness of these institutions before the publication of such advertisements;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the policy of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the publication of such advertisements and to save the people from such misleading advertisements?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a),(b),(c), &(d): Some instances of advertisement in newspapers by fake and unrecognized educational institutions have come to notice. Publication of advertisements by newspapers is a commercial transaction between the publication and advertiser. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of newspapers. Section 24 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956 provides for penal action against fake educational institutions operating in contravention of the provisions of Section 22 and Section 23 of the Act. The University Grants Commission (UGC) on knowing of the existence of fake universities/institutions, advises the promoters to stop their activities and, if necessary, legal action is initiated. Simultaneously, the State Government in whose jurisdiction the institution is located is requested to take immediate necessary action as per the law. At the beginning of each academic session, the UGC also issues Press Releases to caution students against existence of such fake educational institutions.