

Pvt B-schools may have to slash fees as regulator sets limit

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NEW DELHI: A number of private educational institutions, business schools, engineering colleges and technical education providers who operate with the approval of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) may have to reduce their fees in accordance with a National Fee Committee report tabled in August last year.

AICTE chairman Anil D Sabasrabudhe wrote to all the states last month, directing that they implement the committee report from the upcoming academic year to prevent the commercialisation of technical education in the country. According to a senior HRD official, institutions that do not comply will have face legal proceedings or cancellation of its AICTE approval. "Such institutions may even be forced to shut down," said a senior official.

The directive will impact private institutions such as Symbiosis, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research and Manipal University. While

AICTE'S FEE CAP

2-year MBA: ₹1.57 - ₹1.71 lakh

4-year engineering (BE or B Tech): ₹1.44 - ₹1.58 lakh

B Arch: ₹2.05 - ₹2.25 lakh

B Pharma: ₹1.41 - ₹1.55 lakh

MCA: ₹1.57 - ₹1.7 lakh

M Tech: ₹2.31 - ₹2.51 lakh

- Amount depends on location of institute
- Autonomous and accredited institutions allowed to charge 10% and 20% additional tuition fee respectively

FIGURES IN PER YEAR

Symbiosis charges ₹5.8 lakh per year for its two-year MBA programme, the Manipal Institute of Technology takes around ₹3 lakh annually for a four-year engineering programme.

The AICTE had accepted the committee's recommendation that the maximum fee for a two-year MBA programme course be fixed at ₹1.57 lakh and ₹1.71 lakh per year – depending on the location of the institute.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Fee limit for pyt institutes

Similarly, the report has also prescribed caps on the tuition fees and related funds charged by various institutes for engineering, management, pharma and technical courses (see box). However, autonomous and accredited institutions will be allowed to charge an additional 10% and 20% tuition fees from the students respectively. IITs will not be affected by the move as they do not require AICTE approval.

Sources said any institute that's charging less can now increase the fee, and those charging more will have to restrict it to the AICTE-prescribed limit.

"The report was accepted by both the executive committee and the (AICTE) council. However, the council – after accepting the report – directed the AICTE to take necessary action for its implementation by forwarding the report to the secretaries of all state governments... about implementation of the report," Sabasrabudhe said in his letter.

The AICTE, acting on the directions of the Supreme Court, had appointed a National Fee Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Srikrishna in January 2014 for prescribing fee guidelines at technical institutions.

the chief minister and threatened to take power with support from the BJP.

"The real desire of the government of India is to bring down duly-elected governments of small states in an undemocratic and unconstitutional manner," said Ambika Soni, who is in charge of the Congress in the hill state, while party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi termed the Centre's move "murder of democracy".

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley hit back, saying provisions of the Constitution were murdered every day for the last nine days. Citing the state as a "textbook example" of breakdown of governance, he said, "Everything that can go wrong with constitutional functioning has happened in Uttarakhand."

He referred to the passage of the finance bill in the assembly, when the rebel Congress MLAs voted with the BJP. It had never happened in the history of India that a defeated bill was considered to be passed, he said.

Rawat alleged that the central rule was a result of a "premeditated conspiracy" hatched by the Centre to dislodge a democratically elected Congress government in the state. He said the BJP was "thirsty for his blood" right from the day he assumed office and also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Congress came to power in Uttarakhand in 2012. Vijay

Bahuguna, who is leading the rebellion, was then the chief minister.

He was replaced by Rawat in February 2014 over allegations of mismanaging a flood situation.

The Congress had 36 MLAs in the 70-member House before nine of them rebelled.

Speaker Govind Singh Kunjwal has disqualified the rebel Congress legislators under the anti-defection law, bringing down the effective strength of the assembly to 61.

While other Congress leaders attacked the BJP, former union law minister Veerappa Moily questioned the President's stand. "He is bound by the Constitution of India. He is bound by the Supreme Court verdicts. Whether the President should be a rubber stamp or he has to act in the spirit of the Indian Constitution?" he said.

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