

## Don't scrap 44 deemed univs for now, SC tells govt

*Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN*

New Delhi: In a major relief to 44 deemed universities facing derecognition in the light of HRD ministry's Tandon Committee report, Supreme Court on Monday ordered that no immediate step be taken by the Centre to scrap them.

This order is expected to calm thousands of students, many of whom had turned violent due to uncertainty about their future. "Maintain status quo in the matter," the SC said on Monday.

A Bench comprising Justices Dalveer Bhandari and A K Patnaik said, "Nothing will happen to your institution or to students there. Before taking a final decision, the SC will scrutinize both reports — one by the University Grants Commission review committee that did not find anything amiss in these institutions and the other by Tandon committee, that blacklisted them — and give each of them a chance to put their side of view."

The court issued notices to all 44 deemed universities, asked the Centre to furnish all details of the task force report as well as the UGC review committee report and posted the matter for further hearing on March 8.

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## 'No govt action on deemed univs without SC approval'

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court's promise to take both the Tandon committee report and that of the UGC review committee into account will be a huge breather for blacklisted universities and students studying in them.

Attorney general G E Vahanvati also said the government was not planning any hasty action to strip these institutions of deemed university status and would file an affidavit before the court detailing a proposed plan of action on the basis of the committee report. "No action will be taken without the court's approval," he added. Despite being cornered by a large number of senior advocates questioning the soundness of HRD ministry's decision to accept Tandon committee report, he said that in the fitness of things and to maintain purity of educational stream, those deemed universities found unfit to retain the status should not admit students for the next academic session.

The SC refused to pass any order on this suggestion as it met with strong resistance from blacklisted deemed universities represented by virtual who's who among the lawyers in a court room that was jam-packed with lawyers, scared management representatives and anxious students.

When petitioner Viplav Sharma's counsel Sanjay Hegde repeated the suggestion for restraining these 44 deemed universities from admitting students for the coming academic session, senior advocates Fali S Nariman and Rajeev Dhawan questioned the Tandon committee's authority as UGC as the statutory body had cleared these institutions.

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## **MITS – Deemed University Status**

### **(Media Reports)**

1. It is understood that a Writ Petition No. 142 of 2006 (Viplav Sharma versus Union of India & Anr.) has been filed in the Supreme Court of India in the form of Public Interest Petition seeking MHRD and UGC to formulate/issue new regulations/rules for declaring an institution as deemed to be university and to take action against Institutions running unauthorised centres, etc.
2. That MHRD filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Court based on the report of Prof. P.N. Tandon Committee (which took presentation of 10 Minutes of each Deemed University) and decided that Deemed university status of 44 Universities (including MITS) should be withdrawn and that after withdrawal of the Deemed status, the university will work as an affiliated college of the respective State University (as was working before the award of Deemed University Status) and the students will get degree of the State University.
3. We have not received any communication from MHRD so far in this matter. The PIL is still pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court for the final decision.
4. However, the Review Committee constituted by the UGC visited and inspected this Institute between 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009 and on the basis of the report, the UGC recommended that Deemed University Status of MITS be continued.