

# HRD seeks Cabinet nod for Education Malpractices Bill

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**July 23:** The much-delayed Education Malpractices Bill, which empowers the government to initiate criminal proceedings against private institutes that charge capitation fee or cheat students through other unfair practices, is soon likely to be brought before the Union Cabinet for its approval. The human resources development ministry is preparing to seek the Cabinet approval for the bill after the Parliamentary commit on HRD sent it back with its comments.

Sources stated that the bill has been cleared with "minor changes" and once cleared by the Cabinet is also likely to be brought before Parliament in the

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forthcoming Monsoon Session, beginning August 1. The bill aims at cleaning up the education sector with the Centre being empowered to impose stiff penalties and fines against errant institutes.

Official sources stated that the HRD ministry has identified as many as 25 malpractices for which educational institutions be penalised. A provision of imposing a fine of upto ₹50

lakhs and sentencing of up to 10 years in case of individuals has been proposed in the bill. "The mushrooming of fake universities is also expected be checked through the provisions of this bill," sources added.

The legislation also promises to crack down on institutes that promise a host of facilities to students at the time of admission and through their prospectus but fail to provide the same.

Despite being a part of HRD minister Kapil Sibal's much publicised educational reform process in the higher education sector of the country the bill has already faced a delay of over an year. The bill had to face stiff resistance in Parliament from the Opposition and treasury benches and later in the standing committee.