

HRD pulls up UGC over medical college

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Taking strong exception to University Grants Commission's (UGC) decision to allow Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute (SRMCRI) -- a deemed university under CBI investigation for demanding capitation fee -- to bring seven more institutes under its ambit, the HRD ministry has said it will not approve the step.

In fact, there is a likelihood of the decision being rolled back.

Explaining that the decision was taken after the higher education secretary Vibha Puri Das left the full UGC meeting, HRD ministry has also objected to the commission's interpretation of the CBI case against the university. Basing itself on a communication by the vice-chancellor of SRMCRI, UGC had said that the CBI case was against individuals and not the institute. But HRD has referred to the letter the ministry wrote to the CBI director last August asking him to investigate the allegation of capitation fee. Sources said the ministry went to CBI only after the institute blamed a lower level employee for demanding capitation fee. "The investigation is completely against the institute and not individuals," sources said.

The sources also pointed out that the CBI in its initial investigation report to the HRD last November had found allegations against SRMCRI and Balaji Medical College to be true and

The HRD ministry faults UGC's decision to allow Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, which is under CBI scanner for demanding capitation fee, to have 7 more institutes under its ambit

had recommended cancellation of their deemed university status. CBI had also pointed out at systemic failure and recommended changes. However, HRD ministry had asked CBI to give another report.

The ministry is also set to point out that instead of seeking the view of the V.C of the deemed university that is under investigation, the commission should have sought the opinion of CBI. The commission will also be told to change the system of finalising the minutes of the meeting. The minutes should have recorded that the decision was taken after the secretary left the meeting, a source said.