

## 'Reduce seats to aid engg colleges'

► From P1

"Even courses such as automobile engineering and biomedical engineering have lost steam," career consultant Jayaprakash Gandhi.

Though 37,598 students were called for the final and fourth round, the cut-off marks for the round is 114.75 to 77.5 marks.

"Students who have scored less than 60% marks would have already joined other courses or management seats in engineering colleges. So, more than 50% of the students might skip the fourth round," principal of a city college said.

Experts said the admission figures for 250 colleges will not improve drastically in the last round. "There might be a marginal increase in admission. But it would be extremely difficult to run colleges with such poor admissions," another principal told TOI. The students who joined will lose interest after seeing the poor strength. "Many fac-

ulty members in these colleges might lose their jobs," he said.

Of the 69 colleges that have filled more than 50% of seats, most of them belong to Chennai and Coimbatore regions. Anna University's former vice-chancellor E Balagurusamy said without 40% admission, engineering colleges would not even be in a position to pay electricity charge or afford labourers to maintain their campuses.

"For the last three to four years, admissions were poor. But engineering colleges hoping for a reversal of trend. It is now clear engineering colleges cannot improve admissions. It's time Anna University and state government held a meeting with managements of engineering colleges to decide on the way forward," he said. "When around one lakh students are joining the engineering courses, we have more than two lakh seats. These seats have to be reduced," he added.