

Degree colleges asked to start book banks

The Hindu 21.08.25

New Delhi, August 20: The Union Education Ministry has directed colleges to establish book banks to provide text books free of charge to weaker sections of society. Colleges with an enrolment of at least 100 students in degree classes should have book banks. Nearly 2,000 colleges are expected to be covered under the scheme.

Simultaneously a scheme has been drawn up to supply essential commodities to students in hostels at fair prices through consumer co-operatives. The items of essential goods supplied are foodgrains, pulses, spices, vanaspati and edible oils, tea, coffee, etc. If there is no university or college store, the co-operative institution will open its branch. The institution is expected to provide the necessary accommodation for the purpose.

The scheme which was originally intended to cover selected cities will now cover all towns with a population of over one lakh. Already the beginning has been made in some parts of Tamil Nadu and Delhi. Other States are expected to follow suit and the State Governments have been asked to earmark a senior officer of the co-operative department for ensuring co-ordinated follow-up action.

To ensure a fair and equitable distribution of concessional paper for educational purposes under the two-tier system has been evolved.