

## Self-help

After announcement of the SSC results, the scramble for college admissions has started. The brilliant students would of course like to enter the famous colleges for they not only expect good tutoring but also hope that passing out from any of these should lend them distinctiveness helpful for impressing future employers or for seeking higher education in the relatively better institutions at home and outside the country. The preference for elite institutions leaves the other private colleges quite barren in terms of admission. These colleges are required to struggle desperately to stay solvent, financially that is, since student fees are the biggest source of their economic support. The crisis owing to few students coming to unimportant private colleges has greatly worsened this year which points to the need for doing something to rescue these institutions from their present predicament.

We think the best course open to such colleges is to have their governing bodies devise means of help, to help themselves. No amount of blame-shifting can quite hide the fact that high standards of teaching and consequent good results are an academic institution's best assets. The private colleges now in peril would be in happier position today if the management had tried before to persuade the teachers to give their best and planned for healthful academic environs. We know of quite a few private colleges which could amazingly afford to carry on, unaided by the government. How did these colleges attain a reasonably sound financial state? It was possible due to the diligence of the people who ran these places, sometimes with near missionary zeal. They have painstakingly built up a reputation for hard labour, of admitting even mediocre students and then, through a blend of proficient teaching, and exhortations, getting improved results from them.

Almost always the simplistic solution is offered that introducing government grants or other forms of assistance can cure an ailing college or some other academic institutions. But it is not necessarily so and quite a few aided institutions at college and lower levels can be found to have performed poorly. The committees in charge of private colleges must realise that the wisest think to do is to run their institutions on a commercial line, on the motto of either 'producing good results, or perishing.' These colleges shall have to invest in recruitment of motivated and good teachers and building up a zealous educational atmosphere for successfully overcoming the survival issues confronting them. Good results of their students can attract funds from more than one source.