

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
SETTING UP OF NCHER

130

SHRI JABIR HUSAIN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-
:

- (a) whether his Ministry is keen to tie up with leading global universities;
- (b) whether a task force has been set up by his Ministry for replacement of University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) by the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) and a national testing scheme on the lines of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for university admission;
- (c) whether he visited US for developing partnership with educational institutions of global repute;
- (d) if so, the outcome of his visit; and
- (e) to what extent setting up of the task force will improve higher education?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.130 FOR 27.11.2009, ASKED BY SHRI JABIR HUSAIN, DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY, HON"BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, REGARDING SETTING UP OF NCHER.

(a): In order to improve quality of education and research in Indian institutions of higher learning, the Government, in addition to other measures, is keen to promote collaborations with leading Universities of the world.

(b) & (e): The need to establish an overarching regulatory body in higher, technical and professional education based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal has been expressed by Government as one of its priorities for which a Task Force has been constituted by the Government. The Task Force would aid, advise and assist the Government in achieving its objectives of reform and restructuring of the Higher Education sector and has the following terms of reference:

(i) To aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of a Commission for Higher Education and Research.

(ii) To aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of a National Testing system for admission to Universities and other institutions of higher learning.

(iii) To aid and advise the Central Government in evolving new governance structures for Universities.

(iv) To monitor the implementation of such recommendations of the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education and the National Knowledge Commission as the Central Government may decide to implement.

(v) To aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards.

(c) & (d): An official delegation headed by the Minister of Human Resource Development visited some Universities in the United States (US) namely Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University, Yale University and Georgetown University between 25th to 31st October, 2009. The delegation also interacted with Presidents of several other Universities, prominent academics and officials

in the Department of Education in the Federal Government of USA. The discussions focused on the establishment of Innovation Universities and other institutions of higher learning in India. The Indian academe in the US expressed their keenness to participate in India's reform process for higher education. Among the issues discussed were the scope for evolving various models of partnership in Higher Education including Public- Private Partnership, encouraging twinning arrangement between universities in the two countries, joint assignments in Indian universities to Indo-American academe, invitations to academics from top US Universities in specialized fields of knowledge to Indian institutions to strengthen such fields in Indian Universities and encouragement to post-doctoral and graduate students from India to work with top academics and researchers in specialized areas of knowledge.