

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019

Discussion at AIEC

4165. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER

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

- (a) the details of the discussions that took place at the 4th Australia India Education Council (AIEC) Meeting from 28th June-3rd July, 2018;
 - (b) the details of the MoUs that were signed between top educational institutions of the two countries;
 - (c) whether Australian providers are well-positioned to help India meet its education priorities, especially in terms of increasing research capacity of Indian institutions and research collaboration with industry;
 - (d) whether there are any specialist collaborative research institutes in India around key challenges facing both the countries and if so, the details thereof;
- and
- (e) whether there remains issues on mutual recognition of qualifications in India and Australia and if so, whether there has been any discussion between the two countries to resolve those and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) In the 4th AIEC meeting held on 29th June 2018 at Adelaide, Australia, both the sides reviewed the progress on the four key thematic areas –(i) Higher Education, Research and Student Mobility, (ii) Quality Assurance and Qualifications Recognition, (iii) Skills, and (iv) Schools. A joint Communique was adopted by both the sides emphasizing the need for enhanced bilateral cooperation in -

- i. Academic research collaboration between institutions on both sides
- ii. Online education, including by means of sharing of massive open online courses on each other's platforms.
- iii. Skill development and vocational training

iv. Greater mobility of faculty and students through Government of India schemes like Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN).

v. School education, especially in the curriculum revision and development of pedagogies.

(b) A total of 7 agreements/MoUs were signed between Indian and Australian Institutions. Amongst them, three agreements were signed by Deakin University, Australia with Central University of Jammu, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry. Two agreements were signed by Curtin University, Australia with Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi. One agreement was signed between Western Sydney University, Australia and Centurion University, Odisha. One agreement was signed between University of Adelaide, Australia and O. P. Jindal University.

(c) There is growing collaboration between Australian and Indian Institutions on joint research projects and PhD programmes in areas of mutual interest. At the 4th Australia-India Education Council Meeting, it was agreed to further strengthen the partnership of Australia and India in the area of research collaboration to allow greater mobility of researchers, academics and scholars to support our mutual interest in high quality research outputs.

(d) Under the newly initiated Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) programme of this Ministry. 157 Joint research proposals between reputed Indian Institutions and Australian Institutions have been received and in the process of approval. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur is the Nodal Institute for helping, handholding and coordinating with participating Indian educational Institutions to forge alliances with the Australian educational Institutions for academic and research collaboration.

(e) The issue regarding Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications between the two countries is under consideration, through discussions between both the countries.
