

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2419
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2015

Committee on Higher Education

2419. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether the Agenda of action/ recommendations by the 'Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education' headed by professor Yash Pal have been implemented by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the current status of the recommendation have been implemented so far;
- (c) whether the Government has appointed any task force to follow up on the implementation of the agenda of Action and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the timeframe by which a task force is expected to be constituted by the Government?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The Committee to advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education in its Report, 2009, had recommended the creation of an all encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research as a constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies.

Based on the suggestions of the Committee, this Ministry had introduced the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011 in the Rajya Sabha, which sought to promote autonomy of higher educational institutions and universities for free pursuit of knowledge and innovation and to provide for comprehensive and integrated

growth of higher education and research. The observations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Human Resource Development (HRD) that existing regulatory bodies in higher education such as University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) should be re-structured and strengthened were considered very relevant by the Ministry. It was decided to identify the problem areas and weaknesses in the existing regulatory bodies and take corrective measures. The UGC Review Committee under Dr. Hari Gautam, former Chairman, UGC had already been constituted for a review of the UGC. The Bill was, therefore, withdrawn.

(c) & (d): In view of the withdrawal of the Bill no task force has been appointed by the Government. The UGC Review Committee constituted by the Government to review the working of the UGC has submitted its report.
