

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1223
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
DECLINING TECHNICAL EDUCATION
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether there is an allround feeling amongst the industrial sector about the continued decline in the technical education;
- (b) if so, whether this is attributed to the shortage of technical institutes like the IITs and the mushrooming growth of sub standard technical institutes in the private sector;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have looked into the causes for this declining trend in the technical education affecting ultimately the industrial growth of the country; and
- (d) if so, the concrete steps taken to ensure that the technical education provided is improved to meet the challenges ahead in the development of industrial infrastructure of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) to (d): There is no decline in the standard of Technical Education. In fact, there has been a steady progress in the development of technical education system in the country. The technical education system has largely met the skilled manpower requirement of the country in the past and has the potential to meet the emerging needs in the field of Science & Technology. It is generally self-reliant and has received international recognition for the quality of its output. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and other centrally funded technical institutes produce high quality technical manpower relevant to the needs of the industry. The Government is conscious about the need to make available more quality technical manpower. Towards this, accelerated increase in intake of students in premier institutions is being made. There has been very large expansion in the setting up of technical institutions in the country. In order to meet the overall quality in such institutes, special assistance are provided under various schemes particularly for Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence in Laboratories / Libraries, Thrust Area Developments and Research and Development. The 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) including the recently inducted IIT Roorkee are acting as nucleus to provide leadership role for improvement of quality of technical education system in the respective region. The Government of India has also decided to upgrade the Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) and converted them into the National Institutes of Technology (NITs). A massive programme for improvement of quality of technical education in the country namely 'Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India' has been launched.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) while granting approval to new technical institutions ensures availability of adequate infrastructure facilities as per its norms and standards. The National Board of Accreditation under the aegis of AICTE conducts quality auditing of the technical education system. While framing model curricula, AICTE also keeps in view the relation of the course module with current / contemporary technologies. With a view to providing necessary direction towards promotion of Postgraduate education and Research in Engineering and Technology, the Ministry has announced a policy framework in December, 2001, providing for increase in the duration of M. Tech. programmes, increase in the outturn of Postgraduate students / Ph. D holders, periodic phasing out of outdated Postgraduate programmes, promotion of industrial participation, etc. The scholarship amount for Post- Graduate and Research students have been increased considerably.