

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:317  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007  
DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the sponsorship programme of the IIT-Kanpur alumni to develop the academic standards;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Institute has signed any agreement with foreign universities for facilitating such projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to start such programmes in different universities in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details of the programmes and MoUs signed in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ( SHRI ARJUN SINGH )

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 317 ASKED BY SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO BE REPLIED ON 20.03.2007.

(a) & (b): Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur has launched a programme in the Summer Session 2006, called Summer Undergraduate Research Grant for Excellence (SURGE). Under this programme, students selected from different colleges of the country, work under the guidance of faculty of IIT, Kanpur on specific research projects. The cost of project is met from the interest of the Endowment Fund of the Institute, and the Annual Gift Programme funded by the alumni of IIT, Kanpur.

(c) & (d): The SURGE programme is open not only for Indian students but also for foreign students. California Institute of Technology (CALTECH), Pasadena (U.S.A.) had expressed its interest to participate in this programme. Three students from CALTECH had visited IIT, Kanpur during the summer of 2006 and two more students are expected in the summer session of 2007. University of France, Ecole Centrale, Paris has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT, Kanpur for this purpose. The first batch from Ecole Centrale, Paris will join at IIT, Kanpur in 2007 summer session under this programme.

(e) & (f): While Government have no proposal to start such programmes in other universities they being autonomous institutions, are free to sign MoUs with other universities and research institutions in India or abroad for the purposes of joint research, academic programmes and exchange of scholars etc.