

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1006

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008

SETTING UP OF MORE NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Singh Shri Uday;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended to setting up of thirty more national universities to cater to the need of the country as reported in 'The Hindu' dated January 17,2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has examined the said recommendation and proposed to set up new national universities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise
- (e) the time period fixed for setting up of the these Universities;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Commission; and (g) the total amount estimated to be incurred in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V.RAJASEKHARAN)

- (a) & (b): Yes Sir. The relevant extract from the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission is annexed which gives details thereof.
- (c) to (g): Recommendations of the Knowledge Commission are under examination.

Annexure referred to in parts a) to g) of Lok Sabha USQ No. 1006 to be answered on 05.03.2008

Extracts from the recommendations of National Knowledge Commission: on Higher Education – Compilation of Recommendations on Education

Establish 50 National Universities

NKC recommends the creation of 50 National Universities that can provide education of the highest standard. As exemplars for the rest of the nation, these universities would train students in a variety of disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, basic sciences, commerce and professional subjects, at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. The number 50 is a longterm objective. In the short run, it is important to begin with at least 10 such universities in the next three years. National Universities can be established in two ways, by the Government, or by a private sponsoring body that sets up a society, charitable trust or Section 25 company. Since public finance is an integral constituent of universities worldwide, most of the new universities shall need significant initial financial support from the Government. Each university may be endowed with a substantial allocation of public land, in excess of its spatial requirements. The excess land can be a subsequent source of income generation. Exceptions need to be made in existing income tax laws to encourage large endowments. There should be no restriction on the utilization of income in any given period or in the use of appropriate financial instruments. These universities should have the autonomy to set student fee levels and tap other sources for generating funds. The National Universities, NKC proposes, will admit students on an all-India basis. They will adopt the principle of needs-blind admissions. This will require an extensive system of scholarships for needy students. Undergraduate degrees in the National Universities, in a three-year programme, should be granted on the basis of completing a requisite number of credits, obtained from different courses. The academic year will therefore be semester-based and students will be internally evaluated at the end of each course. Transfer of credits from one National University to another would also be possible. An appropriate system of appointments and incentives is required to maximize the productivity of faculty in these National Universities. Strong linkages would be forged between teaching and research, universities and industry, and universities and research laboratories. The National Universities shall be department-based and shall not have any affiliated colleges.