

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1586

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007

REFONNS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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

(a) whether a broad consensus has emerged from the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Union Minister favouring involvement of corporates for resource mobilization on reforms in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a campaign of Full Planning Commission on Education in the month of September for reforms in institutions like UGC and AICTE took a decisive shape and there was an overwhelming support for the adoption of Chinese model on the expansion of higher education; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the higher education system in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (d): The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages nongovernmental and voluntary effort in education while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to commercialise education. In the meeting of the Full Planning Commission on education held on 13.9.2007, the need for systematically exploring the scope for private participation for supplementing public funding for higher education was emphasized. The Meeting also highlighted the need for a review of the role and functions of apex institutions like the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education and Medical Council of India, in the context of the large number of changes that have taken place in the higher, professional and technical education in the last many years and the demands of a knowledge economy. Attention was also drawn to the need to consider innovative approaches including those reportedly taken in China.

A substantial increase in Plan allocation is envisaged in the XI Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in Universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system. Faculty Improvement Programmes and other reforms are also proposed for being taken up during the XI Plan for improving the quality and relevance of higher education.