

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:397
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has formed or proposed to form any task force to evaluate the quality of higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of higher education?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.397 FOR 16.12.2009 ASKED BY SHRI M.B. RAJESH, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, REGARDING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) & (b): The Government has from, time to time, constituted groups to advise and recommend measures on various issues in higher education, including quality aspects. These include the National Knowledge Commission (NKC), the Committee to advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal (YPC), the Task Force on Higher Education to carry out the recommendations of the NKC and the YPC and the Task Force on strengthening Basic Scientific Research in Universities.

(c): Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards, quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were considered by the Central Government, salaries and allowances, higher than those for the Group `A` Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions for teachers would be tightened and raised in merit. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay.