

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:342

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

NEW EDUCATION POLICY

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the education sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Prime Minister has given any directive in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any task force has been set up to evolve a new educational policy through widespread dialogue with stake holders; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): Education is a subject on the Concurrent List of the Constitution, it is the shared responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) is the highest advisory body to advise the Central and State Governments in the field of education. Important issues pertaining to education are discussed in the CABE meetings from time to time. The 56th meeting of the CABE was held on 31.08.2009. CABE unanimously endorsed the general need for reforms at all levels of education and felt that while there may be different view points on the pace and process of reforms, there was unanimity on its direction in the interest of children who are India's most precious assets. Members reiterated their commitment to a meaningful partnership between Central and State Governments, non- government and civil society organizations in the national endeavour for the future of children in our country. CABE emphasized the need for all States to modify their curriculum, syllabi and textbooks on the basis of National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, so that all children in the country have access to child-centric, constructivist teaching and learning process. CABE emphasized that curriculum and textbooks should be fully in the line with constitutional values and child centered pedagogies. CABE endorsed the necessity of a core curriculum in science and mathematics at secondary and higher secondary levels across all Education Boards in the country, so as to provide a level playing field to all students to join professional courses. CABE noted the efforts of CBSE to introduce a grading system in lieu of marks for its Class X examination from next year with the objective of reducing unhealthy competition, and thereby reduce stress, and suggested to the States that they explore the possibility of following suit. CABE was unanimous that there is a need to reduce examination stress among students. CABE noted the attempt of CBSE to make Class Xth examination optional for students who will continue in the same school in Class-XI, while replacing the same with an efficient comprehensive and continuous evaluation (CCE) system so that standards of learning outcome are not compromised.

CABE approved the proposal for an autonomous overarching authority for higher education and research with its policy related functions being distinct from regulatory functions- some States felt that there should be scope for the involvement of States. The Task Force constituted to follow up on the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research would consult States in this regard. CABE also approved the proposal of a self-selecting Collegium of eminent persons for greater objectivity and assistance to search committees in the selection of Chairperson and Members of the proposed National Commission and in the selection of Vice Chancellors and other eminent academic and research positions. CABE endorsed the need for a law to prevent, prohibit and punish malpractices in higher education – some States felt that the scope of the proposed law should be widened to include all sectors of education, and it was explained that the present proposal was in keeping with the legislative competence of Parliament. CABE approved mandatory assessment and accreditation in higher education – the proposed law should take into consideration the concerns expressed by some of the States with regard to the autonomy of the process of accreditation.