

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:366

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010

VAISAKHA SAKA SHORTAGE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the requirement and demand of higher educational institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the shortages reported in the field;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan to meet the increasing demand to tide over shortages of such institutions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the number of Indian students pursuing higher education abroad is increasing;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government for improving the higher education system in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 366 FOR 21.04.2010 ASKED BY SHRI P.T. THOMAS AND SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING SHORTAGE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) to (g): While the Government has not made any assessment in regard to the requirement and demand for higher educational institutions in the country, the low Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in the eligible age group in access to higher education, as compared to other developing countries confirms the need for increase in the capacity of higher educational institutions by establishing new institutions as well as strengthening existing institutions. The targeted increase in GER by the end of 11th Plan period is an increase of 5 percentage points over the GER at the end of 10th Plan.

As the increasing demand for higher education institutions can not be met by public expenditure alone, systemic and institutional reforms are being introduced so that good quality not-for-profit private institutions are encouraged to be established to supplement efforts of Central and State Governments. These reforms include establishing an independent Accreditation Authority for mandatory accreditation, availability of long term finance, a self-disclosure based approach to prevention of unfair practices along with stringent penalties etc.

No separate information is available in respect of Indian students pursuing higher education abroad. There are no restrictions on cross-border students' mobility and such mobility can be owing to a variety of reasons such as affordability, access to bank loans, exposure to foreign societies, aptitude for particular branches of studies, inability to gain admission to top Indian institutions due to capacity limitation etc. Another reason could be the interest among students to join some of the universities in the world which have a long history of education and research spread over centuries.

Upgrading the quality of Indian higher educational institutions and faculty is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in Xth Plan for the expansion of higher education by setting up new institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, 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 etc. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivizing State Governments for increasing public expenditure for establishing model colleges, strengthening of science based research in universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system, faculty improvement programmes and other academic reforms are also being implemented in Xth Plan for improving the quality of higher education. Pay and other monetary benefits have also been revised substantially to attract talented persons to the teaching profession.