

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:224

ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009

IMPROVING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any comprehensive plan to improve the quality of higher education in the prevailing global scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage private sector and also to enhance Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to improve the quality of education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 FOR 20.7.2009 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBERS SHRI KISHNBHAI V. PATEL AND SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI REGARDING IMPROVING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) & (b): Improvement of quality of higher education has to be a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the XI Plan aiming at, inter-alia, improvement of quality through increased allocations 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 etc. The recommendations of a Task Force constituted by the Government for strengthening basic science research have been accepted and the Task Force has been converted to an Empowered Committee to oversee the implementation. The University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence, Colleges with Potential for Excellence, Special Assistance Programme, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences, Fellowship Programmes for Research students as well as orientation and refresher programmes for newly appointed and in-service teachers through its Academic Staff Colleges.

The UGC has also taken up various measures for educational reforms, including introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and credit transfer. State Governments are also proposed to be incentivized through financial assistance for expansion of the capacity of the existing institutions, for starting of new institutions of higher education, for the establishment of model colleges in low GER districts, and for the establishment of new polytechnics in unserved and underserved districts in the country.

Improved pay package for teachers in universities and colleges has been announced by the Central Government in order to attract and retain talented persons in the teaching profession. It has also been decided to make National Eligibility Test (NET) / State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) compulsory for appointment as teachers at entry level in the universities and colleges, except for those who have obtained Ph.D. degree from universities following the norms prescribed by the UGC in its regulations regarding registration, course work and evaluation process.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council, which is an Inter-University Centre of the UGC, assesses universities and colleges from time to time on various parameters of quality. There is a proposal to create an independent body for regulation of assessment and accreditation of higher education institutions and make accreditation mandatory.

(c) & (d): The Government proposes to encourage private sector participation in the field of education consistent with the policy of non-commercialization of education. The Government has already allowed FDI up to 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector, by virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Government is contemplating a law to put in place a mechanism to facilitate the entry of reputed foreign universities accredited in

their country of origin for further improving the quality of higher education and research in the country, while preventing the entry of foreign institutions/ universities of dubious quality.