

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:237

ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009

YASHPAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Hegde Shri Anant Kumar;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

- (a) whether the Report of the Yashpal Committee on Higher Education contained any note of dissent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereto?

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 THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 237 DATED 20.7.2009 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBERS, SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE AND SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH REGARDING YASHPAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

(a) & (b): Prof. Kaushik Basu, one of the twenty two members of the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal, had given a note of dissent, the gist of which is as follows:

(i) Private sector money should be allowed to come into higher education. There is no harm if private colleges end up teaching mainly commercially viable subjects and cater to relatively rich students.

(ii) The information about the performance of universities and institutions of higher learning be made easily available. The University Grants Commission (UGC) should produce and publicise ratings of information about such institutions and misinformation should be punished.

(iii) There is a need to reconcile to a differential treatment of institutions and universities and also of individuals and pay differentials should be allowed.

(iv) India should build some good universities with quality residences for students and advertise them globally to make the country into the world's major hub for higher education.

Several members of the Committee have responded to the note of dissent. Their views may be summarized as follows:

(i) The Report of the Committee lays the thrust that a university should, in principle, be able to cover all subjects. Therefore, the proposition of allowing profit making private sector organizations who may like to stick to only a few commercially attractive areas of study in higher education, is difficult to accept.

(ii) The Report has already recommended rating of institutions and information provision through two divisions of the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER).

(iii) Once the fundamental principle of autonomy of an institution is accepted, the issue of pay differentials would be taken care of.

(iv) Presently, intake of foreign students is not restricted. Besides, with autonomy, universities will be free to develop their own strategies.

(c): While the Government acknowledges that private participation would be required for supplementing the requirement of investments in Higher Education, the present national policy as well as decisions of the Supreme Court are against profit-making in education even though reasonable surpluses can be generated to be ploughed back into institutional development. The report of the Prof. Yash Pal Committee is under consideration of the Government.