

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5476

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) subsuming the existing functions of regulators like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to accommodate employees of such organisations in the NCHER;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether all stakeholders have also been consulted in the matter;
- (f) if so, the reaction of each of these stakeholders;
- (g) whether the NCHER will also subsume the regulatory powers of the existing sector regulators like Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India and Nursing Council of India in the new set up;
- (h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (i) the time by which NCHER is likely to be set up; and
- (j) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): The need for an overarching authority in higher education other than agricultural and medical education subsuming the existing regulatory bodies such as University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Committee to advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal has been accepted by the Government as one of its priorities. A Task Force constituted by the Government to aid and assist in the establishment of the overarching authority has prepared a draft legislation which was placed in the public domain for wide consultations. The Task Force has visited various locations in the country to interact with academicians educational administration, Vice-Chancellors, representatives of teachers unions, and State Government representatives. The Task Force is revisiting the provisions of the draft legislation based on the suggestions and comments received during the consultations. The Government is constituting a Working Group to deliberate and provide recommendations on the adjustment of the employees of the existing regulatory bodies in the proposed overarching authority or in other bodies in higher education.

(g) & (h): The draft legislative proposal envisages that fields of knowledge in medical education currently regulated by authorities such as the Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI) and Nursing Council of India (NCI) would be kept outside the purview of the proposed NCHER. The President's address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009 outlining the agenda for the Government had expressed an intent to establish the National Council for Human Resources in Health (NCHRH). The NCHRH has been envisaged to the overarching authority in health and medical education.

(i) & (j): As the legislative proposal for establishment of the NCHER requires Parliamentary approval, it would not be possible for Government to indicate any time frame for the same.