

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:153  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010  
INDIA AS KNOWLEDGE HUB  
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take fresh initiatives to make India a knowledge hub in the foreseeable future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which Universities, State Governments and other stakeholders are likely to be involved in the process?

**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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 153 FOR 04-08-2010, ASKED BY SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, REGARDING INDIA AS KNOWLEDGE HUB

(a) to (c): Government believes that creation of new knowledge and its dissemination are critical to the progress and development of our society. Strengthening of existing higher educational institutions as well as creation of new knowledge based institutions striving for quality and excellence in research – both in the public sphere as well as by not-for-profit private initiative – would be key to making India a knowledge hub.

During the 11th Five Year Plan, several schemes for strengthening existing higher educational institutions for enhancing access, quality, equity and relevance have been launched, details of which are available in the website <http://education.nic.in>. A large number of new institutions – Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes for Science Education & Research, Schools of Planning & Architecture – have been established during 11th Plan period. Several measures have also been taken for reforming higher education. A Task Force of eminent experts appointed by Government has circulated a draft Bill for an overarching promotional and regulatory authority. A Bill for Prevention and Prohibition of Unfair Practices has been introduced in Parliament to make both private as well as public institutions responsible for quality of teaching and educational services claimed to be provided by them. To make accreditation mandatory, a Bill for establishing a National Accreditation Regulatory Authority has also been introduced in Parliament. Another legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operations of foreign educational institutions has also been introduced in Parliament. There is also a legislative proposal before Parliament for establishing a fast-track adjudication mechanism for disputes among various stake holders in higher education.

Universities and higher educational institutions are being continuously encouraged to introduce academic reforms for improving quality. Such reforms have been mandatorily prescribed in the law governing the new central universities. Older central universities are encouraged to adopt measures for academic reforms. The University Grants Commission has notified new regulations for the declaration and operation of institutions deemed to be universities. A comprehensive exercise in reviewing institutions deemed to be universities was also undertaken by the Government. New regulations have been brought into force, mandating the minimum requirement for eligibility to teach in higher educational institutions. Several measures have also been taken for making teaching as a career more attractive. Government also proposes to set up as many as 14 universities for innovation across 11th and 12th Five Year Plans to make India a global knowledge hub and set benchmarks for excellence for other institutions, synergizing teaching and research.

All the above initiatives have been formulated, or are being formulated through a process of wide ranging discussions, debates and consultations with all stake holders, including universities and State Governments.