

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:373

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

TASK FORCE FOR NCHER

Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the task force constituted by the Government to aid and assist the Government in drafting a Higher Education and Research Bill has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details including the composition of the task force and main terms of reference thereof;
- (c) whether the task force has consulted Bar Council of India and Medical Council of India and also other stakeholders;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a): Yes sir.

(b): The Task Force submitted proposed draft legislation namely, Higher Education and Research Bill, 2010 seeking to establish, inter alia, a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER).

The composition of the Task Force is as follows:

- (i) Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Chairman, IIT Kanpur & Former Vice Chancellor, Anna University, Chennai.
- (ii) Prof. M. K. Bhan, Secretary, Deptt. of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- (iii) Begum Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University(MANNU) and Member, Planning Commission.
- (iv) Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission & Former Vice Chancellor, University of Pune.
- (v) Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, National Research Professor and Chairman, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore.
- (vi) Prof. N. R. Madhava Menon, Member, Commission on Centre-State Relations Government of India.
- (vii) Prof. Mrinal Miri, Former Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University. Additional Secretary (Higher Education) is Convener of the Task Force.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Task Force are as follows:

- (i) To aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of a Commission for Higher Education and Research.
- (ii) To aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of a National Testing system for admission to Universities and other institutions of higher learning.
- (iii) To aid and advise the Central Government in evolving new governance structures for Universities.
- (iv) To monitor the implementation of such recommendations of the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education and the National Knowledge Commission as the Central Government may decide to implement.
- (iv) To aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards.

(c) & (d): The draft legislation on the establishment of the National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) as prepared by Task Force was placed in the public domain for consultations in the month of January, 2010. In addition to receiving

comments and suggestions from the general public and experts, including state governments, the Task Force also held eleven regional consultation seminars in various parts of the country involving all stakeholders. An interaction session was organized on 29th May, 2010 at Vigyan Bhavan wherein eminent academics, heads of industry associations and professional bodies were invited. The Bill as it was finalized after regional consultations and interaction session on 29th May, 2010 was placed before the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest decision making body in education in the country, in the CABE meeting held on 19th June, 2010. The entire text of the Higher Education and Research Bill was shared with all members of CABE. The draft Bill was unanimously endorsed by the CABE. CABE decided that all the states may be asked once again formally to furnish their comments/remarks/suggestions on the proposed bill within a month. A letter was consequently addressed to all states accordingly by the Ministry duly enclosing a copy of the Bill. The last date for receiving comments was kept as 20-07-2010. The states which did not respond within a month were again reminded and given a week's time.

Separate consultation with heads and representatives of the statutory regulatory authorities like Medical Council of India (MCI), Bar Council of India (BCI), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC) etc. was also held on 13th February, 2010 at Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi.

(e): The report of the Task Force report has to undergo consultations with relevant Ministries before an appropriate Bill can be finalized.