

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:407  
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010  
CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION  
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**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has recently constituted a National Knowledge Commission(NKC);
- (b) if so, the aims and objectives of the Commission;
- (c) the achievements made by the Commission so far; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government on the recommendation of NKC ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b): The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13 June, 2005, with a time-frame of three years under the Planning Commission. Its term was extended upto 31st March, 2009.

The Terms of Reference of NKC were:-

- # Build excellence in the educational system to meet the knowledge challenges of the 21st century and increase India's competitive advantage in fields of knowledge.
- # Promote creation of knowledge in Science & Technology laboratories.
- # Improve the management of institutions engaged in Intellectual Property Rights.
- # Promote knowledge applications in Agriculture and Industry.
- # Promote the use of knowledge capabilities in making government an effective, transparent and accountable service provider to the citizen and promote widespread sharing of knowledge to maximize public benefit.

(c) & (d) : The NKC has submitted around 300 recommendations in 27 focus areas during its term, and implementation on a number of its recommendations is currently underway. Some of the major decisions taken by the Central Government based on the recommendations of the NKC are annexed:

Annexure

Some of the major decisions taken by the Central Government based on the recommendations of the NKC are as follows;

(i) For expansion, redesign and quality enhancement of vocational education and training in the country, a three tier structure has been constituted under the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).

(ii) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, has been enacted.

(iii) The need for the establishment of an overarching authority in higher education, 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 expressed by Government as one of its priorities. A Task Force has been constituted to aid and assist the Central Government in the establishment of the overarching body and a draft legislation prepared by the Task Force has been placed in the public domain for wider consultations.

(iv) A bill to provide for prohibition and punishment of unfair practices has been introduced in Parliament. The bill provides for mandatory disclosure of various aspects of functioning of technical and medical educational institutions and universities through its prospectus.

(v) A bill to provide for the regulation and entry of foreign educational institutions has been introduced in Parliament.

(vi) A bill to provide for mandatory accreditation of all higher educational institutions through multiple accreditation agencies registered with an independent authority has been introduced in Parliament.

(vii) A Scheme of interest subsidy for student educational loans obtained under the scheme of the Indian Banks' Association for pursuit of professional education has been introduced.

(viii) The Central Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has approved the implementation of a National Translation Mission, to propagate Indian languages and literature through high quality translation, with a Eleventh Plan outlay of Rs 75 crore.

(ix) The Central Government in the Ministry of Culture has proposed the setting up of a National Mission for Libraries. The activities under the National Mission for Libraries include a National Census of Libraries, modernization including networking of Libraries; establish Knowledge Centres and establish Digital Libraries.

(x) The Central Government in the Department of Information Technology has approved in principle the implementation of a National Knowledge Network which would interconnect knowledge institutions with gigabit capabilities for sharing knowledge resources and research.

(xi) The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been launched to leverage the potential of ICT in the teaching learning process. Under this Mission, 20,000 institutions of Higher Education will be provided connectivity.

(xii) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has written to all universities in the country to undertake academic reforms. Section 6(2) of the Central Universities Act, 2009, provides for academic reform measures in new Central Universities from its inception.

(xiii) 16 new Central Universities have been established under the Central Universities Act, 2009, and 14 innovation universities aiming at world class standards have been envisaged.

(xiv) Five national web based portals; one on Water ([indiawaterportal.org](http://indiawaterportal.org)), championed by Arghyam Trust; one on Energy ([indiaenergyportal.org](http://indiaenergyportal.org)) championed by The Energy Research Institute (TERI); one on Environment ([indiaenvironmentportal.org.in](http://indiaenvironmentportal.org.in)), championed by Centre for Science and Environment and a portal for teachers ([teachersofindia.org](http://teachersofindia.org)) championed by Azim Premji Foundation; and one on Bio-diversity ([indiabiodiversity.org](http://indiabiodiversity.org)) championed by Ashoka Trust for research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) have been launched.

The Planning Commission, which is the nodal agency in this regard, is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from time to time.