

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3642
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION SECTOR
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

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

- (a) whether the current education infrastructure is insufficient to ensure a steady supply of high skilled talent to the knowledge driven sectors of the economy;
- (b) if so, whether the Government intends to facilitate greater private and foreign investment in education to remedy the situation; and
- (c) the details of the proposals which are already before the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Keeping in mind that the education system should cater to the needs of the manpower requirement for the economic development of the country, Government has accorded high importance to vocational education and training. While elaborating on the essence and role of Education, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) has recognized that Education develops manpower for different levels of the economy. The NPE also envisages the introduction of systematic, well-planned and rigorously implemented programmes of vocational education. The National Policy of Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) lays special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunities by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far. These elements are meant to develop a healthy attitude amongst students towards work and life, to enhance individual employability, to reduce the mis-match between the demand and supply of skilled manpower, and to provide an alternative for those intending to pursue higher education without particular interest or purpose. The policy envisages that efforts will be made to provide children at the higher secondary level with generic vocational courses which cut across several occupational fields and which are not occupation specific.

Government has already started Technical Quality Improvement Programme to improve quality education and enhance existing capability of the technical institutions to become dynamic, demand-driven, quality conscious, efficient at national and international levels. The proposed reforms include faculty development, examination reform, curriculum revision, semester system, seminar tutorials, autonomy with the accountability. Nation-wide scheme of 'Sub-Mission on Polytechnics' has also been launched, wherein assistance is being given to the State Governments for starting new Polytechnics, revamping the Community Polytechnic Scheme and upgrading existing polytechnic institutes. The UGC also has a scheme of Career Orientation to Education/Career Oriented Programme/ Career Oriented Course, with an objective to ensure that graduates who pass out after completing these courses, have knowledge, skills and aptitude for gainful employment.

The Government proposes to encourage private sector participation in the field of education consistent with the policy of non-commercialization of education. The Government has already allowed FDI up to 100% through the automatic route in the Education Sector, by virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. A Bill to regulate the entry and operation of Foreign Educational Institutions has already been introduced in the Parliament.