

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5693

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011

TASK FORCE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN UNIVERSITIES

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

- (a) whether Prof. M.M. Sharma Committee on basic Scientific Research in universities has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said task force;
- (c) the details of the recommendations on which the Government has taken action so far; and
- (d) the extent to which science education in the universities has been benefited on implementation of such recommendations?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Looking at the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in Indian , a Task Force for rejuvenation of basic Scientific Research in universities was set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M.Sharma in 2005. In its Report, the Task Force has inter alia, recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian universities within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component o f research i n post-graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research and creation of networking centers in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. For implementation of recommendations of the Task Force, an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma has been constituted, which meets every month.

(c) & (d): Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, Dr. D.S.Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship for Science, Engineering & Technology has been launched during the year 2007-08 and till date 513 post doctoral fellowships have been awarded under the scheme. A Faculty Re-charge Programme has been launched on 9th June, 2011. Several Departments have been identified under Special Assistance Programme (SAP) for strengthening of infrastructural development. 168 colleges have been given the status of College with Potential for Excellence. An expenditure of Rs.73.50 crore has been incurred for infrastructural development, 210 colleges have been given the status of Autonomous Colleges and an amount of Rs.10.00 lakh each has been released for infrastructural strengthening. An amount of Rs.1200.00 crore have been allocated for implementation for recommendation of Task Force for basic scientific research in institutions of higher learning including support for infrastructure development in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. During the current year 2011-12 , an amount of Rs.139.25 crores have been allocated for implementation of recommendations of M.M. Sharma Committee.