

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5728
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011
STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION.
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

(a) whether the Vice Chancellors (VCs) of the Universities have sought for the structural changes in higher education to suit the present conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the views expressed in the recent conference of VCs of West Zone?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) organised a Conference of the Vice-Chancellors of the Central and State Universities on 'University and Society: Issues and Challenges' on March 25-26, 2011, to come out with inputs for policy planning and development strategies that need to be put in place for expanding higher education and making it relevant to the present as well as the future needs of our society. The recommendations of the conference are summarised below:

(i) Sustaining enhanced Access, Equity, Engagement and Outcome:- Inclusive policy emphasis must focus on state- supported expansion of higher education and up-gradation of facilities in the existing public funded institutions and make use of the opportunities of the under-utilised spaces and facilities in non-aided institutions by designing the right kind of public-private partnerships (PPP).

(ii) Content & Quality: - Content and quality improvement will depend upon the quality of faculty. Incentive structures need to be introduced to attract and retain quality faculty, particularly in state universities and institutions in remote rural areas. The Action Plan for Academic and Administrative Reforms circulated in 2008 and subsequently in 2009 by the UGC should be implemented by all the universities.

(iii) Research & Innovation:- Earmarked budget for individual university should be allocated for promoting research and innovation and the decision to fund the research to be undertaken by the faculty members should be made at the university level.

(iv) Faculty Development Initiatives and Inter-University Resource Sharing:- National Knowledge Network (NKN) to augment classroom teaching should be developed. Sharing of lectures by eminent faculty and course delivery through IT connectivity and NKN should be promoted.

(v) Internationalization in Higher Education:- Indian Universities to be encouraged to engage with foreign universities for tie-ups between departments, for faculty exchange, student exchange and so on.

(vi) Models of Financing Higher Education:- State Governments should be liberal in providing enhanced funding to the State Universities to improve their quality of teaching and research. Central government must also support the state universities through additional grants.

(vii) Good Governance:- Good governance requires setting up appropriate institutional structures, framing policies and practices and for promoting academic freedom.