

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:303

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011

QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken for bringing the standards of Indian Universities at par with the best universities in the world;
- (b) whether the existing programmes/ facilities enable receiving higher technical and vocational education at low/reasonable expenses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Indian students rank second to Chinese peers, accounting for 15 per cent of all foreign students in US higher education;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of higher education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.303 FOR 24th AUGUST, 2011 REGARDING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION ASKED BY SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY AND SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV.

(a): The University Grants Commission (UGC) which has the mandate for coordination and determination of standards in Universities, has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at improvement of quality of academics education in Indian Universities and has taken up various measures for educational reforms, such as introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) etc, which has been implemented by most of the Central Universities. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standards of teaching in Indian Universities. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body established by the UGC, accredits universities and colleges on various parameters of quality. The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) accredits programmes offered by the technical institutions.

(b)&(c): In the matter of improving access to higher technical education at reasonable cost, the fee structure prescribed by the various State level Fee Fixation Committees is applicable in consonance with relevant Supreme Court judgments. The Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on educational loans provides subsidy for interest payments during the loan moratorium period to students belonging to economically weaker sections who have availed educational loans along with interest subsidy of one percent. UGC also gives scholarships to Scheduled Casts, Scheduled Tribes, Women etc. The scheme of vocationalisation of Secondary education provides assistance for offering vocational courses in Classes XI and XII in government and government aided schools. Children studying there receive vocational education as per the norms of these schools.

(d)&(e): The Ministry does not maintain such data. However, as per Report of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), a US organization for graduate education, sourced from the internet, there has been a 23% increase in offers of admission from US Graduate Schools to prospective students from China and an 8% increase in students from India.

(f): Improvement of standards of Indian University education is a continuous endeavour. A substantial increase in Plan allocation in the XI Plan aimed at improvement of quality and infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and for setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture etc. Funds have been provided by the UGC for the establishment of model degree colleges in Educationally Backward Districts. Improved pay package for teachers in universities and colleges have been implemented by the Central Government in order to attract and retain talented persons in the teaching profession.