

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:126

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Kumar Shri Shailendra;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any ambitious scheme for reforms in higher education in view of the low and highly inadequate enrolment and to improve quality of education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage of Indians receiving higher education, State/UT-wise and gender-wise;
- (c) whether all the stakeholders have been consulted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of the views expressed by them; and
- (e) the financial assistance/incentives extended to the State Governments for improving the quality of higher education, during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 126 FOR 30.11.2011 ASKED BY SHRIDHARMENDRA YADAV AND SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR REGARDING "REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION"

(a) to (e): Education reform is a continuous process. 11th Five Year Plan seeks to carry the reform process forward through expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhanced public spending.

Education is one of the most important elements of national development. Government has focused on developing India as a knowledge society. The constant endeavor of the government is to improve quality and expand access opportunities with equity and inclusion.

Education being in the Concurrent List is the responsibility of the Centre as well as State Governments. With a view to increasing enrolment rate and improving the quality of education in the country, Central Government has launched a Scheme for setting up of 374 Model Degree Colleges in Districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio, lower than the national level. Government has also started a new Scheme to cover top 2% of the student population of class XII (equally divided between boys and girls on the basis of Class XII results) by providing them with scholarship of Rs.1000/- per month for 10 months in a year for undergraduate level studies and Rs.2000/- per month for 10 months a year for post graduate level students. In order to achieve the goal of enhancing the status of women, University Grants Commission (UGC) has been providing financial support on cent per cent basis for construction of women hostels and other related infrastructural facilities in colleges. Funds are provided to State Governments, on sharing basis, for setting up of polytechnics in unserved and under-served districts and construction of women hostels in Polytechnics. To enhance GER, the National Mission on Education through Information Communication Technology (ICT) with the aim to provide connectivity to all institutions of higher learning in the country, to develop e-content and enable access through low cost computing devices has been initiated. The State-wise GER in Higher Education is given at Annexure-I.

Central Government has also initiated legislative reforms in higher education. Bills for setting up National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions, The National Academic Depository, Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities, Educational Tribunals for creating an overarching regulatory authority are at various levels of consideration.

Educational reforms have been discussed with stakeholders in various fora, like meeting with State Governments, State Secretaries of Education, Round Tables of Ministry of Human Resource Development, State Education Ministers and in the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), which is the highest policy advisory body in the field of education in the Central Government. Details of consensus points arrived in various CABE meetings are available at www.education.nic.in.

UGC is implementing number of schemes for improving the quality of higher education such as; Special Development Grant for

Universities in Backward Areas, Special Development Grant for Young Universities, setting up of Autonomous Colleges, University with Potential for Excellence, Special Assistance Programme, Bilateral and Educational Exchange Programme, Academic Staff College, Innovative Programme, etc. UGC provides funds directly to the educational institutions and not through the State Government. Details of grants given during last three years are available on the website of University Grants Commission at www.ugc.ac.in.

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) has been designed as a long term project to support excellence and transformation in Technical Education in the country. TEQIP Phase-I implemented with the assistance of World Bank as a centrally coordinated Project with a total cost of Rs.1339 crore. The details of funds released during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is at Annexure-II. TEQIP Phase-II has been launched from the year 2010.