

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1326

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012

EDUCATION REFORMS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Ramkishun Shri ;Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether the Government has called a meeting with the State Education Ministers to build a consensus around its plans for education reforms recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the agenda for this meeting;
- (c) the major points discussed in the meeting;
- (d) the reaction of the State Education Ministers in this regard; and
- (e) the final decision taken by the Government, if any, in the matter?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : Yes, Sir. A conference of the State Education Ministers was held on 22nd February, 2012 at New Delhi to discuss various issues relating to Department of Higher Education and Department of School Education & Literacy. The Conference was attended by 23 Ministers of Education representing State Governments and Union Territories. The Agenda for the meeting included inter-alia Introduction of a common eligibility examination for higher education in science and engineering, Vocational Education, Community Colleges in XII Plan, Curricular renewal for Elementary Education of equitable quality, and Grievances Redressal Under RTE Act.

After detailed deliberations, the proposal for a common national examination with effect from 2013 with weightage to State Board results, normalized on the basis of percentiles formula, was endorsed "in principle" by States. The States of Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Puducherry and West Bengal sought more time to study the proposal in detail. The States may decide on adopting the same pattern for admission to State-level engineering institutions with appropriate weightages as States may think fit.

While welcoming the development of National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF), the State Education Ministers felt that NVEQF will be an important landmark in improving the skills and employability of the youth of this country. The report of State Education Ministers headed by the Hon'ble Education Minister of Bihar on NVEQF was unanimously accepted. After deliberations, NVEQF and the concept of community colleges was unanimously endorsed by States. The need to have a dialogue at the State level with School Boards, Boards of Technical Education and universities to provide a seamless pathway for vocational students was stressed.

Issues relating to quality of elementary education were also discussed. While many States have developed state vision of quality and also initiated some curricular reform, but a lot of age-inappropriate material continues to form part of the textbooks and teaching learning material used in classrooms. States were requested to initiate steps to formulate age -appropriate curricula and syllabi in keeping with the principles of section 29 of the RTE Act and NCF-2005. States were also requested to institute CCE from the child's perspective to show progress that the child has made with respect to his or her performance. State Governments were also requested to put in place the Grievance Redressal and appellate mechanism taking into account the guidelines prescribed under the RTE Act.