

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3328

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012

NCHER

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to establish a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the NCHER is likely to replace the existing regulatory bodies such as University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education and Distance Education Council;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make NCHER an effective and all encompassing body of higher education in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011 provides for the establishment of an over-arching authority called the National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) for determining, maintaining and coordinating standards in higher education and research including university education, vocational, technical, professional and medical education other than agricultural education. The higher Education and Research Bill, 2011 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28th December, 2011 and has been referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.

(c): The proposed NCHER will subsume the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and the Distance Education Council (DEC).

(d): The UGC was constituted as a statutory body under the UGC Act, 1956 for coordinating the activities of higher education and maintaining standards. Later several councils were set up to regulate areas of technical, professional and medical education with each of them taking different views on matters of standards & promotion of higher education. This led to fragmentation of knowledge and prevented free flow of ideas across disciplines. The Kothari Commission had recommended that the UGC should represent the entire spectrum of higher education and that higher education should be regarded as an integrated whole. The National Policy on Education 1986 and Plan of Action 1992 envisaged the establishment of a National Apex Body to bring greater coordination and integration in planning and development of higher education. The National Knowledge Commission in its report, 2007 recommended the establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education. The Committee to advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education in its Report 2009 also recommended the creation of an all encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research as a Constitutional body to replace existing regulatory bodies. For these reasons, the NCHER is proposed to be created.

(e): The NCHER will primarily have the role of promotion, coordination and facilitation of higher education in the country. It will be vested with powers to ensure that no institution enrolls students without satisfying the minimum standards.