

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:160  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012  
INDIA AS KNOWLEDGE HUB  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take fresh initiatives to make India a knowledge hub in the foreseeable future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which Universities, State Governments and other stakeholders are likely to be involved in the process?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Creation of new knowledge and its dissemination are critical to the progress and development of our society. Strengthening of existing higher educational institutions as well as creation of new knowledge based institutions striving for quality and excellence in research constitute the core of achieving the objective of making India a knowledge hub.

During the 11th Five Year Plan, a large number of new institutions – Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes for Science Education & Research, Schools of Planning & Architecture – have been established.

The Government has introduced the 'Universities for Research and Innovation Bill, 2012' in Parliament. The Bill aims to provide for the establishment and incorporation of Universities for Research and Innovation to promote synergies between teaching and research and to create institutions universally recognised for quality in teaching, learning and research. These Universities aim to be at the fount of making India a global knowledge hub and set benchmarks for excellence for other institutions of higher learning. The Bill also provides for conversion of existing Universities into Universities for Research and Innovation.

Apart from the above, in order to reform higher education, legislative proposals for prohibiting unfair practices in higher educational institutions; for making accreditation mandatory and for regulating the entry and operations of foreign educational institutions, have been introduced in Parliament. Another legislation, to create an overarching body to regulate higher education holistically, keeping in mind the increasingly converging nature of disciplines and to explore the opportunities of knowledge creation that lie at the intersections of existing disciplines, has been introduced in Parliament.

All the above initiatives have been formulated through a process of wide ranging discussions, debates and consultations with all stakeholders, including universities and State Governments.