

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1606
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013
ICSSR
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to bring certain major structural changes in the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to restructure the research institute of ICSSR as well as the research network and establishment of more such research institutes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had set up a Review Committee on 23rd September, 2010 to review the functioning of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The Committee had submitted its report to the MHRD on 28th June 2011. The Report is available on the MHRD website <http://www.mhrd.gov.in>. The salient recommendations by the Committee included recommendations on Restructuring and Redesigning of the ICSSR; strengthening Research; improving Resources and Finances and restructuring the ICSSR Institutes.

According to the ICSSR, action has been taken towards implementing various recommendations of the Review Committee. It is decided to amend the Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the ICSSR in order to streamline the appointments of the Chairman, the Member Secretary and the non ex-officio academic members of the Council to ensure complete transparency in such appointments and further to provide greater autonomy and continuity in the functioning of the ICSSR.

(c) The said Review Committee has also made specific suggestions for restructuring and improving the institutional network of the ICSSR. These include ensuring minimum threshold faculty strength, hundred percent payment of salary expenditure of the sanctioned posts by the ICSSR and working grant in all the existing 25 Research Institutes receiving maintenance grants from the ICSSR and to establish new ICSSR research institutes in territorial areas and fields of study where such institutes are non-existent at present. The ICSSR has also taken steps to ensure the research outcomes in Social Sciences are made available free of cost to teachers, students and researchers. Presently, 3700 PhD theses procured by the ICSSR through the National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) are available online. These are available at <http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/>.