

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:125  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013  
REGULATORY MECHANISM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether it is true that many States are opposed to the move of setting up of a national overarching regulatory mechanism for higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) is expected to act as an advisor and guide to the other regulatory bodies and facilitate their functioning; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House .

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 FOR 6TH MARCH, 2013 ASKED BY SHRI SUGUMAR K., HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, REGARDING REGULATORY MECHANISM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

(a) & (b): In the 57th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held on 19.06.2010, the draft Higher Education and Research (HE&R) Bill, seeking to establish a national overarching regulatory body in higher education was discussed. While there was a general consensus on the need to establish an overarching regulatory body at the apex level, CABE decided to ask State Governments and others to send their written comments and suggestions which would be taken into consideration, before the draft Bill was finalized by the Central Government. All States were accordingly addressed and comments and suggestions on various provisions of the Bill were received from 18 States. The setting up of the national overarching regulatory mechanism for higher education was specifically opposed by the State Governments of Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(c) & (d): The Higher Education and Research (HE&R) Bill, 2011 intends creating the National Commission for Higher Education & Research (NCHER) for determination, coordination, maintenance and continued enhancement of standards of higher education and research. The existing regulatory bodies like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Technical Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) would be subsumed in NCHER. However, the regulatory bodies in the fields of medicine and law would retain the powers to set minimum standards for medical education and legal education leading to professional practice. Other Professional Councils, listed in the First Schedule of the HE&R Bill would continue to function and set standards for professional practice in their respective domains. The head of each such professional council would also be a member of the General Council proposed in the Bill.