

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3892

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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

- (a) whether an International Conference on Community Colleges was held in the recent past;
- (b) if so, whether the decline in quality of education due to mismatch between the outdated syllabus and the changing need of the industry has been expressed in the conference;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether US has offered their assistance for promotion of Community Colleges in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the details of corrective steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of education in accordance to the need of the industry?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) There is a great demand-supply mismatch in the country as the economy needs a more skilled workforce as well as managers and entrepreneurs than are produced annually. The skill -oriented courses available in the market are not credible or fully acceptable to the employers in the fast changing environment of the needs of the industry. The traditional higher education system in the country is also rigid in terms of duration of courses, teaching-learning timings, place of study and choice of subjects. The demand-supply mismatch in the availability of an industry-fit skilled workforce is not only quantitative but also qualitative.

The Community Colleges model, which exists worldwide in various forms, appears to broadly address the above concerns. Such colleges by and large offer low-cost and high-quality education locally that encompasses both vocational skills development as well as more traditional coursework, thereby providing opportunities of multiple entry and exit from the job market to the higher education sector and vice-versa. It also caters to community -based life-long learning needs. Accepting the recommendations of the Committee of Education Ministers of 9 States, the Government of India has decided to set up 200 Community Colleges as an endeavour to bridge the demand-supply mismatch for a skilled workforce on a pilot basis from existing colleges/polytechnics and to make them functional from the academic session 2013.

The community colleges would follow the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) for level certification. In order to make the pass-outs more industry-fit and employment oriented, the scheme stipulates association of industry, including business, service, agriculture and allied sector, at all levels, viz. design, development and delivery of curriculum, training of trainers/teachers, supply of adjunct faculty, 'hands on' practical training, evaluation and placement.

A number of national and regional level seminars/workshops were held to sensitise the stakeholders who have to play key role in the implementation of the Scheme. In pursuance of this capacity building exercise, a two-day international conference was organized in New Delhi on 6th and 7th February, 2013 to provide an opportunity to learn from the experiences of the managers of the CCs across the world, identify areas of collaboration and forge partnership for national and international collaboration. In this conference, the managers of the Community Colleges and high officials of the relevant industries from Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, UK and USA as well as from our own country participated.