

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6796  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013  
LOK VIDYA TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS  
Shanavas Shri M. I.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to instruct the central universities to nurture and develop 'Lok Vidya' traditional knowledge and skills and prepare a directory of projects and facilitate grassroots-level, innovators, innovation centres and research parks in the central universities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the mechanism to implement it?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Central Universities (CUs) are autonomous bodies established by the Acts of Parliament and are governed by their respective Acts, Statutes and Ordinances. The CUs, with the approval of their statutory authorities, decide all the academic matters to be undertaken by them. In the Conference of Vice-Chancellors of CUs, held in February, 2013 in Rashtrapati Bhawan, a group of Vice-Chancellors recommended several short, medium and long term measures to extend the reach of education through extension work in contiguous areas. They include identification of cluster of affiliates; creating consortium of stakeholders; developing specific strategies in an inclusive manner and incentivizing these activities; nurturing and developing 'Lok Vidya' traditional knowledge and skills; preparing a directory of innovators, projects and facilitating grassroot innovators; establishing innovation centres and research parks; interacting closely with industry for their participation in Research & Development, improving curriculum, training of teachers and students; addressing grand challenges of the country, viz., drinking water, sanitation, urban development, renewable energy and climate change; institutionalizing the University's support to local arts and culture etc.

As these recommendations emanated from the Vice-Chancellors of the CUs, they have been forwarded to all the CUs for taking appropriate action in time. A small group of Vice-Chancellors has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chairman, University Grants Commission to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.