

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:597

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

SINGLE NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Antony Shri Anto; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to set up single national testing mechanism to standardize under-graduate level entrance examinations including the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE);
- (b) if so, whether the Government has prepared concept paper in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set up a task force to prepare a blueprint for a special purpose vehicle or a national testing agency;
- (d) if so, whether the said task force has submitted its report and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to set up National Testing Agency to implement the proposal?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Yes, Madam. A concept paper on setting up a National Testing Scheme has been prepared and may be viewed at http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/ADDL61CABEAgenda_0.pdf. The concept paper deals with the idea of establishing a National Testing Agency with the mandate to conduct tests so the present system of multiple examinations by multiple institutions is done away with. The key factors for a nationally acceptable testing scheme would be to provide the student with opportunities to improve, provide flexibility to the institution in structuring its admission process, be structured in a manner which is perceived to be transparent, fair, reasonable and reliable, accommodate the diversity in learning outcomes at the secondary level without compromising on its ability to indicate merit, account for the difference in the social-economic background of students in a manner that is objective and discernible and account for the diversity in categorisation among the various states.

(c) to (e): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a Task Force on the National Testing Scheme under the Chairmanship of Prof. Sanjay Dhande, Former Director, IIT-Kanpur to prepare a blueprint for creating a National Testing Agency, to suggest parameters to standardize all the major tests including the Joint Entrance Examination and to suggest ways and means of setting up an internationally benchmarked testing and assessment organisation. A copy of the order constituting the Task Force may be viewed at http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/TFNTS_2013_0.pdf. The Task Force has not yet submitted its report.