

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:128
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
CO OPERATION IN KNOWLEDGE SECTOR
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether India and US propose to expand co-operation in the knowledge sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether both the countries have proposed to increase awards under Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to place young Indian faculty in best of the US institutions to enhance their capabilities; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which the education sector of the country will be benefited thereby?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 128 FOR 14TH AUGUST 2013 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI AND SHRI UDAY SINGH REGARDING 'CO-OPERATION IN KNOWLEDGE SECTOR':

(a) and (b): India and the U.S.A have advanced the cooperation in education sector during the recent years, especially since the visit of the Prime Minister of India to U.S.A in November 2009 during which Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative was announced. This was followed by the India-US Higher Education Summit held on October 13, 2011 at Washington D.C. Thereafter the first India-US Higher Education Dialogue was convened in June 2012 at Washington D.C. and the second India-US Higher Education Dialogue was convened on 25th June, 2013 at New Delhi. As a result of these deliberations, several new initiatives have been launched to enhance educational collaborations between India and the U.S.A. that include, the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative Awards for taking up joint research activities by the Institutions of both countries; Raman Fellowships for Indian faculty and researchers for taking up Post Doctoral research in U.S. Universities/Institutions; collaborations for establishing community colleges in India; technology enabled learning including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs); and two-way mobility of students. Institution-to-Institution collaborations are also encouraged between the higher education institutions of both the countries.

(c): As mutually agreed between India and the U.S.A, eight joint research projects comprising four each from India and the U.S.A are selected every year for awards under Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative. A total of 16 Awards have already been announced for 2012 and 2013 as per this structure and advertisements inviting applications for next round of awards have been published. There is no proposal at present to increase the number of awards.

(d): The University Grants Commission has instituted the Raman Fellowships for young Indian faculty and researchers for placement in best institutions of the U.S.A to enhance their capabilities. 126 fellowships have been announced in 2013 under this programme.

(e): The programmes for co-operation in knowledge sector between India and the U.S.A. are benefiting the Indian education and research through taking up joint research projects in the grand challenge areas; faculty development; leadership development; forging institutional linkages; leveraging the expertise of Indian Diaspora; enhancing the people-to-people linkages; and establishment of Community Colleges in India.