

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4055

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014

SETTING UP OF NEW UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has recently recommended against the setting up of new universities and institutes of higher learning in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the response of his Ministry in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The focus of the 12th Five Year Plan, as approved by the Planning Commission and National Development Council would be on consolidation and quality improvement rather than creating new institutions. As per the 12th Plan document, new institutions should be permitted only in those cases where critical social and regional gaps exist.

(c): The Ministry of Human Resource Development is fully in agreement with the Planning Commission since the 11th Plan had seen a massive expansion in the number of centrally-funded institutions. During the 12th Plan, the focus of the Ministry is on the consolidation and the improvement of the quality of centrally funded institutions.

In order to address critical social and regional gaps, the Central Government has also launched the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which envisages strategic funding of the higher education system in the States in order to improve the quality of state government supported higher education.