

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2061
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
PROMOTION OF S T EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any substantive measures are being undertaken for promotion of science and technology education in the country , including Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof , State – wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to improve the employability of the tribal and backward youth in the field of science and technology; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Teaching science that includes mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and some other basic science is mandatory in Technical education in all Universities. AICTE approved technical institution for promotion of technical education across the country including the state of Jharkhand is placed as Annexure-I. List of Institutes of National Importance imparting education in Science and Technology, State-wise is placed as Annexure-II.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides grants to Universities & Colleges declared fit to receive grants as per Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956, for general development, fellowships/scholarships and Research Projects which are directly or indirectly supporting Scientific Research. It has also started a scheme for promoting basic scientific research exclusively. Universities, which are assisted under Special Assistance Programme (SAP) of the UGC are eligible for support from the UGC under the Basic Scientific research Scheme.

There are more than 3200 polytechnics and equivalent technical institutions which exhibit potential to provide skill training to millions of youth through their own facilities and or by establishing extension centres in collaboration with ITIs, or Vocational Skill Knowledge providers, NGOs. These polytechnics can also render useful services in adoption of appropriate technologies and providing technical and support services to rural people and slum dwellers. Under Community College Scheme grants to the tune of Rs. 5,715,000/- has been released to one Polytechnic i.e. Government Polytechnic, Dhanbad in Jharkhand.

The scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in March, 2009 with the objective to enhance access to secondary education and to improve its quality. Improvement in the quality of education imparted at secondary level is envisaged through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, providing universal access to secondary level education. Emphasis is given to Science, math and English education, science laboratories and ICT enabled education. Important equity interventions provided in the scheme are:

- (i) special focus in micro planning
- (ii) preference to Ashram schools for upgradation
- (iii) preference to areas with concentration of SC/ST/Minority for opening of schools
- (iv) special enrolment drive for the weaker section
- (v) more female teachers in schools; and
- (vi) separate toilet blocks for girls.

(c) & (d): Under the scheme of National Vocational Educational Qualification Framework (NVQF), now redefined as National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, a Trust registered under the Charitable Trusts Act, 1950 or any other relevant Act, a company incorporated under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 or Partnership Firm duly registered with Registrar of firms under relevant law of the State or UT Administration may Conduct a Community college /Vocational education Courses in existing AICTE approved Polytechnics or conduct a Community college/ Vocational Education courses in colleges recognized by the Central Statutory Body and /or the State Board of Technical Education. As on date approval has been granted to 79 Skill Knowledge Providers and 381 technical Institutions.

AICTE with objective of enhancing the employability of engineering graduates and to make more manpower available with the increased soft skills is running a programme of EETP (Employability Enhancement Training Programme with BSNL for students of electronics & Communication of selected engineering colleges in the country in the training centers of BSNL. Presently the training is

being imparted in 26 centres.

AICTE has also notified a regulation under National Employability enhancement Mission (NEEM) to offer on the job practical training to enhance employability of a person either pursuing his or her graduation/diploma in any technical or non-technical stream or have discontinued studies of degree or diploma course to increase their employability.

The university Grants commission (UGC) has launched a scheme on skills development based higher education as part of college /University education, leading to Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc), Degree with multiple exits such as Diploma/Advanced Diploma Under the NSQF. The B.voc. Programme is focused on universities and colleges providing undergraduate studies which would also incorporate specific job rules and their NOSs along-with broad based general education. This would enable the graduates completing B.Voc. to make a meaningful participation in accelerating India's economy by gaining appropriate employment, becoming entrepreneurs and creating appropriate knowledge. In order to minimize the social disparities, UGC is also funding schemes like Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC/ST, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SC/ST and Post Graduate Scholarships for SC/ST Students in Professional Courses.