

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:385
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether the Government have urged the vice-chancellors of universities to improve the quality of education and infrastructure to meet the emerging challenges in the field of higher education;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote quality education in the universities;
- (c) whether any concrete programme/action plan has been prepared for the purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) to (d): Reforms in higher education are carried out as a continuous process. The objective of this process is to achieve a profound transformation of higher education in order that it becomes an effective promoter of sustainable human development commensurate with the specific requirements of the country and, at the same time, improve its relevance with closer links with the world of work and achieve quality in its teaching, research and business and community extension functions to meet the challenges of 21st century. To fulfill its constitutional responsibility for maintaining the standards in higher education, necessary regulations, directions and circulars, etc., in this regard are issued by the Central Government/UGC from time to time.

A major thrust is being given to improve the quality of education and research in the institutions of higher learning. The number of Universities and colleges/institutions which have been accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council is 94 and 429 respectively. UGC has identified five Universities as the "Universities with potential for excellence". Twelve Universities have been identified under the scheme of "Centres for Excellence". The Commission has decided to launch a scheme to identify 100 colleges throughout the country as "Colleges with potential for excellence". Model curricula in core subjects have been circulated to all the Universities in the country with an advice to update their Curricula in a time bound manner. The premier research institutions like ICSSR are providing fellowships and other support to research in social sciences.

Recent initiatives taken to strengthen the technical education system include decision to introduce Credit-based system in the technical education, conversion of Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) into the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), introduction of All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) launching of a fully dedicated technical education channel, launching of a special programme to improve quality of technical education, participation of private initiatives, development of technologies in emerging areas and their transfer to user agencies through technology development missions, transfer of techno-economic advances in technical education and appropriate technologies to rural people through expansion of Community Polytechnics and improving the productivity of the informal sector of the economy.