

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1504
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MISSION REACH
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) The aims and objectives of Mission-Relevance and Excellence in Achieving new Heights in Education (REACH);
- (b) the number of Technology Information Forecasting Assessment Council (TIFAC)-CORE functioning across the country;
- (c) The details of targeted programme of said mission; and
- (d) The extent to which the youths of the country benefited by the Mission-REACH?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) As a follow up of Technology Vision 2020, TIFAC had initiated Mission REACH (Relevance & Excellence in ACHieving new heights in educational institutions), which aims to bring about an architectural change in higher education system by synergizing course content, opportunities and investments, with the following aims & objectives :

- i) Development of human resources of international standards
- ii) Imparting high quality education in chosen areas of high relevance to industry and society
- iii) Creation of sustainable linkages between academia and industry
- iv) Upgradation of selected Engineering, Science and technical

Institutions relevant to industry as Centres of Excellence and to broaden the level of education in order to meet the scientific and technological manpower demand in the advanced emerging areas manpower

(b) At present 26 TIFAC-Centres Of Relevance and Excellence (COREs) in as many disciplines are functional across the country.

(c) The Mission envisages upgrading the existing Engineering, Medical and Science colleges to international standards. This would also facilitate meeting the demands of industry and society in a very specialized nature in the advanced emerging areas on the technology front. The broad modalities of this targeted programme are as follows :

- i) Establishment of TIFAC-Centres of Relevance & Excellence (CORE) in academic institutions across the country. COREs have been equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to augment the quality of teaching/ learning, at UG, PG & Doctoral levels
- ii) Launching advanced level courses which are of direct relevance to industries (so far 30 courses have been launched from these Centres: out of which, a few were for the first time in the country)
- iii) Technology enhanced learning modes to ensure wider spread of higher technical education across the country and to serve the teaching and students community better.

(d) The benefits to the youth of this country through the CORE programme are summerised as follows:

- i) Students as well as industries find the courses offered by the TIFAC-COREs extremely beneficial for them. Students passing out in specialized areas from these TIFAC-COREs have enjoyed excellent placement.
- ii) In India, where the employment of qualified people is a major issue, the placement record of students from TIFAC-COREs is over 90%
- iii) TIFAC-COREs offer tailor-made, short-term courses & certificate courses to the students fulfilling the specific requirement of industries. This has increased their employment potential.

iv) Students get the opportunity to work on live industry problems using state-of-the-art facilities (both hardware & software) established at these Centres

v) Several papers have been published both in international and national journals involving students from TIFAC-COREs. This has helped in establishing their academic credentials.