

(b) if so, which are the universities selected for the above purpose in Karnataka; and

(c) the amount so far sanctioned or proposed to be sanctioned to such Universities in Karnataka during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to confer the 'Universities of Excellence' status on 20 identified Universities.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

#### New Education Policy

987. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new education policy has been long due since 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) by when the new education policy is anticipated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 which is based on an in-depth review of the educational situation and a national consensus, enunciates a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in its entirety. The framework continues to be relevant.

The NPE provides for periodical review and appraisal of the implementation of its various parameters to ascertain the progress and trends emerging from time to time. The last such review was undertaken in 1992. A preliminary exercise for a fresh review has been initiated.