

Reforms in higher education sector

1919. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the major decisions in the higher education sector under consideration of Government and what process of consultation with stakeholders is envisaged in taking these decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): The major decisions in the higher education sector under consideration of the Government is enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

As the proposed reforms will have major implications, Government is holding consultations with all stakeholders which *inter-alia* includes State Governments, Universities, Technical and Management Institutions etc.

Statement

Details of Major decisions in the higher Education sector under Consideration of the Government

A. Legislative Initiatives

1. An autonomous overarching authority for Higher Education and Research based on the recommendations of Yashpal Committee and National Knowledge Commission;
2. A law to prevent, prohibit and punish educational malpractices;
3. A law for mandatory assessment and accreditation in higher education through an independent regulatory authority;
4. A law to regulate entry and operation of Foreign Educational Providers;
5. A law to establish a Tribunal to fast-track adjudication of disputes concerning stake holders (teachers, students, employees and management) in higher education;
6. A law to further amend the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, to strengthen the Commission;
7. A law to amend the Copyright Act, 1957 to address the concerns relating to copyrights and related rights of the various stake holders.

B. Policy Initiatives

1. Formulation of a 'Brain-Gain' policy to attract talent from across the world to the existing and new institutions;
2. Launching of a new Scheme of interest subsidy on educational loans taken for professional courses by the Economically Weaker Students;
3. Strengthening and expansion of the Scheme for Remedial Coaching for students from SC/ST/minority communities, in higher education;

4. 'Equal Opportunity Offices' to be created in all universities for effective implementation of schemes for disadvantaged sections of the society;
5. A new policy on Distance Learning would be formulated;
6. Regional Centre/Campus of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak to be started in the state of Manipur;
7. Model degree colleges would be established in 100 districts with significant population of weaker sections and the minorities;
8. 100 women's hostels would be sanctioned in higher educational institutions located in districts with significant population of weaker sections and the minorities;

C. Administrative and Other Initiatives

1. Review of the functioning of the existing Deemed Universities;
2. Operationalizing newly established 12 Central Universities and 2 new IITs;
3. Academic reforms (semester system, choice-based credit system, regular revision of syllabi, impetus to research, etc. which are already mandated under the Central Universities Act, 2009) to be introduced in other Central Educational Institutions;
4. Modernization of Copyright Offices;
5. 5000 colleges/university departments to be provided with broadband internet connectivity under the [National Mission on Education through ICT];
6. Assistance would be provided to States to establish at least 100 new polytechnics (over and above assistance already provided for 50 polytechnics in the last financial year) in districts without any polytechnic at present. States would also be assisted for the construction of 100 women's hostels in the existing polytechnics and for upgrading 50 existing polytechnics;
7. Approvals would be obtained for establishing 10 new NITs in the un-served States so that every State has one earmarked NIT;
8. Operationalising 700 revamped Community Polytechnics for skill development of rural youth;
9. Direct credit of scholarship into the bank accounts of 41,000 boys and 41,000 girls every year, under the new Merit Scholarship Scheme for students in the universities and colleges.

Central University in Gujarat

1920. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to establish a Central University in Gujarat;