

and, probably, the revival of the closed units is under the consideration of the Government and the Government may take a final view soon.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I find that in seven years the production is static. This is a very serious matter because no industry can survive particularly when the demand is going up and we want agricultural revolution and all that and we know production in every field is going down. Urea is the most important nutrient for increasing productivity. Now, one side is that the production is not increasing. The second is, the imports are, I find, one is from Oman and another is STE. The STE is importing double the quantity and the rates are two-and-a-half times more. Can you not get from Oman more quantity and why do you have to import through ST and pay more than double? Can the Minister explain, please?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, the Oman unit is a joint venture unit and the price has been well settled right from the beginning and the quantity is also fixed. Therefore, that way it is not possible. They cannot give more than the quantity that has been agreed upon with them and whatever is the other import from other countries, it is determined by the market price. On the basis of this market price, the subsidy is also determined because the urea MRP has not been changed. Therefore, the subsidy part is increased automatically from when the international price of import is hiked.

National Higher Education Finance Corporation

*124. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to give impetus to educational reforms, Government is planning to set up National Higher Education Finance Corporation (NHEFC);

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what will be the role of NHEFC for technical institutes, universities and schools once it is operational?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) A proposal for the establishment of National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) is under consideration, which aims at providing loans for infrastructure development and expansion of educational institutions, as well as refinance facility for educational student loans.

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : सभापति जी, सरकार एक राष्ट्रीय उच्च शिक्षा वित्त निगम की स्थापना करने जा रही है। मैं इस विषय में मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस संस्थान की authorized share capital क्या होगी और क्या यह संस्थान non-recognized संस्थानों एवं विद्यालयों को सहायता उपलब्ध

कराएगा या केवल UGC मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालयों को सहायता उपलब्ध कराएगा, कृपया विस्तार से बताएं।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सभापति जी, अभी सरकार ने कोई ऐसा निर्णय नहीं लिया है कि Education Finance Corporation स्थापित किया जाए। आज के दिन में यह केवल proposal की stage पर है और इस पर सरकार में बातचीत चल रही है, हम प्लानिंग कमीशन से बातचीत कर रहे हैं और यह proposal अभी पूरी तरह से freeze नहीं किया गया है, लेकिन आपने जो सवाल पूछा है, उसके संदर्भ में मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि अगर Education Finance Corporation स्थापित होगा, तो हमारी सोच यह है कि आज के दिन जो पैसा education sector में लगना चाहिए और जितना पैसा उपलब्ध है, वह काफी नहीं है, क्योंकि चाहे वे Private Educational Institutions हों या Aided Institutions हों या Government Institutions हों, जो पैसा educational infrastructure के लिए जरूरी है, वह उपलब्ध नहीं है। अगर Education Finance Corporation बनेगा, तो हमारी सोच यह होगी कि सभी sectors को उस finance की जरूरत होगी और सभी sectors को वह access होनी चाहिए।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : महोदय, इस देश में कई विद्यालय और तकनीकी संस्थाएं बगैर एआईसीटीई या यूजीसी मान्यता पर चल रही हैं और इनकी डिग्रियों को न तो सरकारी संस्थाएं मान्यता देती हैं और न ही अच्छे गैर-सरकारी offices इनकी डिग्रियों को मानती हैं। बच्चों के लाखों रुपए बर्बाद हो रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह जो इस वित्त निगम की, संसद बिल के तहत स्थापना कर रहे हैं, उसमें गैर मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालयों और विद्यालयों के बारे में कुछ विचार किया है? और यदि नहीं किया है, तो इसका क्या कारण है?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : जहां तक recognition का सवाल है, it has nothing to do with the Educational Finance Corporation. जहां तक recognition का सवाल है, यह तो एआईसीटीई करती है या यूजीसी करती है। उसमें finance का कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। अगर recognised institution है, तो finance जरूर मिलेगा और अगर recognised नहीं है, तो कैसे finance मिलेगा।

SHRI P. RAJEEV: I would like to know whether the proposed new mechanism would replace UGC and if so, whether education is a subject under the Concurrent List. Has the Central Government made proper consultations with the State Governments before implementing or planning new proposals as per this?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I might just clarify. This has nothing to do with the UGC. Let me explain what the purpose of an Educational Finance Corporation is. At the moment, Sir, under the present policy framework if you want to set up an institution there is no Government agency that can finance you. So, there is no access to finance to setting up a new educational institution. So, he will have to go to the bank to actually get financing from the bank at the lending commercial rate. Now, human resource development is not considered as infrastructure development and the Supreme Court has said that this is charity, this is for public service. So, an activity which is for public service has to borrow if he wants to set up an educational institution at commercial rates. But, an activity which is in the infrastructure sector, namely

physical infrastructure, you can borrow at softer rates because that is priority sector. So, what the policy framework within which we are working is, that anybody who wants to set up an educational institution should have access to finance. That is the first purpose. This has nothing to do with UGC. Secondly, if you set up an educational institution, under the present guidelines you will get grants from the UGC or from the Government or under schemes of the Government only when you have achieved certain milestones. Now, in the meantime if you want to enhance your infrastructure — and nowadays, with research and development expanding exponentially — you need new capital investment. There is no way that you can get finance. You have to cross many milestones. So, when we set up an educational finance corporation, our objective is that anybody who wants to set up an educational institution should have free access to finance as a priority lending sector. What happens is, when you call it charity, State Government control fees. Once it is charity, State Government control fees and they cannot increase fees in their institutions. Many of them do the kind of practices that they are doing and that is the root cause of the problem. When they will have free access to finance and every child has free access to a loan why will he need to sell the family silver to enter into an educational institution? So, I think it is the need of the hour and I would request you to give me suggestions as to how we must move forward because unless we build that infrastructure and capital we will not be able to move forward.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, it is a very welcome measure that this Government is planning to set up a National Higher Education Finance Corporation. Just now the Minister said that it is very difficult for institutions to get loans at softer interest. It is very important. In his reply he said, 'under consideration'. It is a very normal, vague reply of the Government. I would like to get a categorical reply. When is he going to set up and how is he going to plan for it and how is he going to help the universities and also the educational institutions and other universities? So, I would like to know what is going to be the role of the corporation. He must come up with a time frame and commitment.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in fact, in reply to his first query, I made it clear that this in the form of a proposal. It is not a decision of the Government yet. We are moving forward with this proposal. My Ministry is extremely keen in that proposal and I want the support of the House, because unless we move forward in this direction I don't think we will solve the problems of access. Remember, Sir, we want to improve our GER. At present, out of every 100 children who go to school in India, only 12 per cent reach colleges and 88 per cent do not reach college. We want to improve our GER Ratio to 30 per cent. In any developed country, 40 per cent of every 100 children reach college. Sir, it is 6 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa. In India, it is 12 per cent. The global average is 23 per cent. Are we not doing a great injustice to our children? We want our GER Ratio 30 per cent by 2020. How will we increase it? We will increase it only if you have access to finance...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Increase your Budgetary allocation...(Interruptions)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, एच.आर.डी. मंत्री गुस्से में आए हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, do not intervene...(Interruptions)...पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए प्लीज़...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Therefore, Sir, as I said, this is in the form of a proposal in our Ministry. We are very serious about it and we hope that the Government will finally take a decision in favour of this proposal.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, मेरा एक छोटा सा सवाल है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सेंट्रल स्कूल में admission का quota कब बढ़ाएंगे?

श्री सभापति : पाणि जी, प्लीज़...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, मेरा एक छोटा सा सवाल है। जो Education Loan बैंक से मिलता है, तो क्या आप बैंक को allocation देते हैं, उनको quota देते हैं कि इतना दीजिए या बैंक को अपने कॉमर्शियल रेट पर वह देना होता है, मेरा यही सवाल है।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, this is the whole point. The proposal is that anybody — under privileged or privileged — who wants a loan for setting up of an educational institution or if any child who wants to go to an educational institution where the fees are high should have access to a loan. There can be no discrimination between one and another. That is our policy. And, Sir, the rate of interest, hopefully, when the proposal goes through, will be priority lending sector rate.

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Sir, that is not my question. My question is...

श्री सभापति : हो गया। Now, Question No. 125.

Quality of education in foreign university centres

*125. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign universities which have been allowed or given permission to set up centres in the country;

(b) whether there is any process to check and ensure the quality of education in these institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route is permitted in the Education Sector since 11th February, 2000, without the authority to confer foreign degrees.