

Development, as many as seven (07) proposals have been received from North Eastern Region so far in the eleventh plan seeking financial assistance for upgradation of infrastructure facilities in existing polytechnics. The details of the proposals received are as follows:—

Sl. No.	State/UT	Name of Polytechnic
1	Sikkim	(1) Advanced Technical Training Centre, Bardang. (2) Centre for Computers and Communication Technology, South Sikkim, Namchi
2	Meghalaya	(3) Jowai Polytechnic, Ladthalaboth, Jowai (4) Tura Polytechnic Cherengre,
3	Nagaland	(5) Government Polytechnic, Kohima
4	Tripura	(6) Tripura Institute of Technology, Narsingarh (7) Women's Polytechnic, Hapania

#### **Report of National Knowledge Commission**

\*608. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has accomplished its task with its final report submitted to the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, what has been done with its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13 June, 2005, with a time-frame of three years, under the Planning Commission. Its term was extended upto 31st March, 2009. The NKC has submitted around 300 recommendations in 27 focus areas during its term, and implementation on a number of its recommendations is currently underway. Some of the major decisions taken which have emerged from the recommendations of the NKC are as follows:—

- (i) For expansion, redesign and quality enhancement of vocational education and training in the country, a three tier structure has been constituted under the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).
- (ii) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, has been enacted.
- (iii) The need for the establishment of an overarching authority in higher education, based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Committee to advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal, has been expressed by Government as one of its priorities. A Task Force has

been constituted to aid and assist the Central Government in the establishment of the overarching body and a draft legislation prepared by the Task Force has been placed in the public domain for wider consultations.

- (iv) A bill to provide for prohibition and punishment of unfair practices has been introduced in Parliament. The bill provides for mandatory disclosure of various aspects of functioning of technical and medical educational institutions and universities through its prospectus.
- (v) A bill to provide for the regulation and entry of foreign educational institutions has been introduced in Parliament.
- (vi) A bill to provide for mandatory accreditation of all higher educational institutions through multiple accreditation agencies registered with an independent authority has been introduced in Parliament.
- (vii) A Scheme of interest subsidy for student educational loans obtained under the scheme of the Indian Banks' Association for pursuit of professional education has been introduced.
- (viii) The Central Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has approved the implementation of a National Translation Mission, to propagate Indian languages and literature through high quality translation, with a Eleventh Plan outlay of Rs. 75 crore.
- (ix) The Central Government in the Ministry of Culture has proposed the setting up of a National Mission for Libraries. The activities under the National Mission for Libraries include a National Census of Libraries, modernization including networking of Libraries; establish Knowledge Centres and establish Digital Libraries.
- (x) The Central Government in the Department of Information Technology has approved in principle the implementation of a National Knowledge Network which would interconnect knowledge institutions with gigabit capabilities for sharing knowledge resources and research.
- (xi) The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been launched to leverage the potential of ICT in the teaching learning process. Under this Mission, 20,000 institutions of Higher Education will be provided connectivity.
- (xii) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has written to all universities in the country to undertake academic reforms. Section 6(2) of the Central Universities Act, 2009, provides for academic reform measures in new Central Universities from its inception.
- (xiii) 16 new Central Universities have been established under the Central Universities Act, 2009, and 14 innovation universities aiming at world class standards have been envisaged.

- (xiv) Five national web based portals; one on Water (*Indiawaterportal.org*), championed by Arghyam Trust; one on Energy (*indiaenergyportal.org*) championed by The Energy Research Institute (TERI); one on Environment (*indiaenvironmentportal.org.in*), championed by Centre for Science and Environment and a portal for teachers (*teachersofindia.org*) championed by Azim Premji Foundation; and one on Bio-diversity (*indiabiodiversity.org*) championed by Ashoka Trust for research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) have been launched

The Planning Commission, which is the nodal agency in this regard, is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from time to time. The detailed recommendations and the action taken thereon is available at the following address <http://knowledgecommission.gov.in>.

#### **Sharing of cost of railway projects by States**

\*609 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has asked State Governments to come forward in adopting cost-sharing method for ensuring timely completion of long-pending railway projects in their respective areas;
- (b) if so, whether a movement has started with Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments agreeing to share costs on 50:50 basis for their projects;
- (c) if so, names of other States which have also agreed to the proposal of cost-sharing; and
- (d) by when Railways are likely to implement these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) State Governments have been requested to share at least 50% cost of projects in their state to expedite completion. Some of the State Governments have agreed to share cost of selected ongoing projects in their State.

(b) to (d) State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have recently agreed, to share cost of some more ongoing projects and new projects on cost sharing/Public Private Partnership basis. The ongoing projects will be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

#### **Construction of rural godowns**

\*610. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government provides assistance for construction of rural godowns in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of targets fixed and achieved for construction of rural godowns/storages during the current Five Year Plan in the country, State-wise;