

Fragmentation of knowledge is detrimental to the emergence of new knowledge at the frontiers of disciplines and has created boundaries impeding the development of knowledge. The other foundational principle on which institutions of higher learning needs to be restructured is that autonomy of such institutions is essential for the free pursuit of knowledge, which is required to be met by evolving new governance structures that promote autonomy in its various dimensions with accountability of such institutions. The establishment of a body with power, *inter alia*, to prescribe academic standards, norms of accreditation and mechanism for financing and governance of institutions, will enhance the endeavour to promote credible standards of higher education and research in the country. As recommended by the Yash Pal Committee, it has been projected that the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) are to be subsumed within the National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) on its establishment.

Shortage of faculty

1760. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of faculty members in the wake of mushrooming growth of educational institutions; and

(b) if so, the effect and implications of this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 15% of the population in the age cohort group of 18-24 years by 2011-12. This requires a substantial increase in the number of institutions and consequently would require an adequate number of teachers for imparting education. Failure to put in redress the faculty shortage would hamper the achievement of the targets for increase in GER set out by Government. The Government has taken measures to attract talent into the academic profession by liberalizing pay and other incentives at levels higher than that provided to the All India Civil Services (Group 'A') at the entry stage. The age of superannuation has been increased to 65 years for persons engaged in teaching in higher education institutions. The Government has constituted a Task Force under Prof. Sanjay Dhande, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, to assess the existing faculty shortage and the requirement of quality faculty in technical, professional and University education considering the need to achieve the targeted GER in the remaining period of the Eleventh Plan and the Twelfth Plan and to suggest remedial policies and other measures to meet the estimated shortfall in quality faculty.

Funding of unworthy universities

1761. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: