

can be owing to a variety of reasons such as affordability, access to bank loans, exposure to foreign societies, aptitude for particular branches of studies, inability to gain admission to top Indian institutions due to capacity limitation etc. Another reason could be the interest among students to join some of the universities which have a long history of education and research spread over centuries.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Winding up of UGC, AICTE and AOU

2373. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to wind up UGC, AICTE and AOU as per the recommendation of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the future of the employees of these organisations; and

(d) whether Government has plans to accommodate these employees in the newly constituted body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The National knowledge Commission had recommended the establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) to regulate all fields of knowledge in higher education. The Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education (Yash Pal Committee) had recommended the establishment of a National Commission for Higher Education and Research to subsume the existing bodies, namely, the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE), Distance Education Council (DEC) and the academic functions of the professional councils concerned with higher education. A Task Force has been constituted by the Government to aid and assist it in the establishment of a National Commission/Council for Higher Education and Research. The Task Force has formulated a draft legislation for the establishment of the NCHER titled the [National Commission for Higher Education and Research Bill, 2010] which has been placed in the public domain for wider consultations and obtaining feedback from stakeholders. The Task Force has visited various locations in the country and has held discussions with prominent academics, Vice-Chancellors, educational administrators and representatives of State Governments on the legislative proposal. Based on the suggestions and the comments received during the interaction/consultation, the Task Force would submit its final proposal to the Government. The draft Bill also proposes consequential action in regard to the regular employees of the UGC as well as the other regulatory bodies, and consequently the mode of the consequential action cannot be predicted as the same is only a proposal at present.