

Innovation universities

*166. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for setting up Universities for Innovation aiming at world class standard in academics and research has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, by when the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The National Development Council (NDC) has approved setting up of 14 Universities aiming at World Class Standards during 11th and 12th Five Year Plan periods. A legislative proposal for setting up of Universities for Innovation is under consideration of the Government. The proposal aims to provide for the establishment and incorporation of Universities for Innovation to promote synergies between teaching and research and to create institutions universally recognised for quality in teaching, learning and research. The Universities for Innovation would be at the source of making India a global knowledge hub and set benchmarks for excellence for other institutions of higher learning. Each University for Innovation may, in recognition of the fact that knowledge created is not pure discipline based or propositional but also emerges in response to problems of society, focus on an area or areas with problems of significance and build an ecosystem of research and teaching around different related disciplines and fields of study which are relevant thereto, searching for solutions that are globally valid and in the process develop education at undergraduate and higher levels.

Financial irregularity in DFCCIL

*167. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CBI is investigating financial irregularity in Rs. 50,000 crore Dedicated Freight Corridor Project;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether CBI has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, details thereof and action taken thereon;