Standard of Indian Universities

3025. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the standard of Indian Universities has been declining in comparison to other Asian Universities;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Government has ascertained the factors responsible for decline in the standard of Indian Universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps Government proposes to take to improve their standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The standard of Indian Universities has not been declining in comparison to other Asian Universities. While there is no universally recognized international system of ranking of standards of higher educational institutions, many Indian higher educational institutions are comparable to the best institutions in the world and other Asian countries. The different ranking systems use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions and some of these parameters are not relevant for Indian higher educational institutions and such comparisons cannot constitute the basis of benchmarking of Indian higher educational institutions.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has taken several steps to improve the standard of Indian Universities. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality of higher educational institutions. During the Plan period, a large number of new institutions - Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes for Science Education and Research, Schools of Planning and Architecture - have been established.

University Grants Commission (UGC), has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at improvement of quality of education in Indian Universities and has taken up various measures for educational reforms, such as introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) etc.

which have been implemented by most of the Central universities. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standard of teaching in Indian Universities.

In order to reform higher education, legislative proposals for prohibiting unfair practices in higher educational institutions; for making accreditation mandatory and for regulating the entry and operations of foreign educational institutions, have been introduced in Parliament. Another legislation, to create an overarching body to regulate higher education holistically, keeping in mind the increasingly converging nature of disciplines and to explore the opportunities of knowledge creation that lie at the intersections of existing disciplines, has been introduced in Parliament.

Single entrance exam for IITs

3026. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   the reasons for the Ministry proposing single entrance exam for all IITs and other centrally-funded technical institutions;

(b)   the reasons that IIT, Kanpur and some other IITs have rejected the idea;

(c)   the reasons for not consulting IITs and other technical institutions before mooting the idea; and

(d)   if consultations were held, the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) With a view to reducing the burden, in terms of time, finances and the stress caused in scheduling and preparing for multiple entrance examinations, on both, the students and parents, the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) had, in its meeting on 14.09.2011, endorsed 'in-principle' the proposal of a Common Entrance Examination for admission to undergraduate programmes in Engineering.

(b) to (d) Based on the discussions held amongst the various stakeholders, including those from the IIT system, it has been decided to hold a Joint Entrance Examination from the year 2013 for admission to the undergraduate programmes in engineering in two parts, JEE-MAIN and JEE-ADVANCED. Only the top 1,50,000 candidates