

The functions of the Board would be:—

- * to review the progress of education from time to time
- * to appraise the extent and manner in which the education policy has been implemented by the Central and State Governments, and other concerned agencies, and to give appropriate advice in the matter;
- * to advice regarding coordination between the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations, State Governments and non-governmental agencies for educational development in accordance with the education policy; and
- * to advice, *suo moto*, or on a reference made to it by the Central Government or any State Government or a Union Territory Administration on any educational question.

For the discharge of these functions, the Board may (i) call for information and comments from any Government institution, any other organisation or an individual; (ii) appoint committees or groups comprising members of CAGE and/or others as may be necessary; and (iii) commission, through Government or any other agency, studies, research or reports on any specific issue requiring the attention of the Board or its committees or groups.

Conference of minority educational institutions

1225. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Level Conference on Minority Educational Institutions was recently held in Delhi;

(b) if so, the objective of the Conference and the details of the suggestions that emerged from the Conference on development and welfare of the minority institutions; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to analyse and implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c)

A dialogue with educationists and those working in the field of Minority education was held on 3-4 July, 2004. The objectives of the said dialogue was to get feedback from the minority communities regarding various issues related to Minorities Education and invite their suggestions to address these issues. The dialogue highlighted several areas of concern regarding Minority education and various suggestions, were made to improve the level of educational access and quality among the Minority communities. In order to follow up on these suggestions and in line with the National Policy on Education, the Government has constituted the "National Monitoring Committee of Minority Education" consisting of some Member of Parliament, representatives from State Governments, Academics, Activists and reputed Organisations (including Minority Organisations) to look into the various aspects of Minority Education including the review of the functioning of various schemes pertaining to Minority education.

Recognition to Private Universities by UGC

1226. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has given recognition to a number of private universities called 'Deemed Universities';

(b) the number of such Deemed Universities operating with the recognition of the UGC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the UGC has also withdrawn recognition to some Deemed Universities;

(d) if so, the names of such Deemed Universities which have lost recognition of the UGC during the last three years; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve the standard of university education through better functioning and supervision by the UGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir, Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 provides that the Central Government, on the advice of the UGC can declare any Institution for higher education, other than a University, as Deemed to be University.