

Demand and supply mismatch in higher education

2660. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing a huge demand and supply mismatch when it comes to higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is making any serious efforts to better utilise the advent of technology, e-learning to bring down the said mismatch in higher education;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is taking steps to coordinate with all the departments including educational institutes to work in tandem to improve the condition of higher education in the country; and

(f) if so, Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (f) Owing to competing demands on the resources the country is facing challenging situation in the Higher Education sector. Hence, technology has been used as an enabler to bridge the gap and achieve both excellence and equal access.

The Ministry of HRD has embarked on a major and new initiative called 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) which will provide an integrated platform for online courses. The objective is to ensure that every student in our country has access to the best quality higher education at affordable cost. The Hon'ble President of India on 9th July, 2017 launched the SWAYAM platform which can be reached at "<http://swayam.gov.in>". Till date more than 1500+ courses have been run through SWAYAM. About 34 Lakhs students have enrolled in these courses.

MHRD has appointed 9 National MOOCs Coordinators (NMCs) for developing and delivering courses covering all disciplines from Class 9 to post-graduate level. They are University Grants Commission; IIT Madras; Consortium for Education Communication (CEC); Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU); NCERT; National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS); Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Since the MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) on SWAYAM is integrated with conventional education, it shall bring-in tremendous learning opportunity in coming days and shall prove game changer in the Indian education sector.

FDI in higher education

2661. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for relaxing norms for FDI in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) As per consolidated FDI Policy, 2017, the Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% under automatic route in the educational institutions subject to applicable laws/sectoral rules/regulations/security conditions.

Also, the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have issued regulations/guidelines on collaboration between Indian and Foreign Universities with a view to increase synergy between Indian and foreign academic institutions; to offer students additional choices and; to improve curriculum and the delivery of knowledge and educational content. The UGC on 11th July, 2016 has notified the UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2016 regarding collaboration between Indian Higher Educational Institutions and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions leading to the award of a degree. The regulations are available at <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2016/170684.pdf>.

As per these regulations, Indian Universities and Colleges having the highest grade of accreditation/threshold accreditation, and conforming to other eligibility conditions as laid down in the regulations, can apply online to the UGC for starting twinning arrangement with Foreign Educational Institutions (FEI) having the prescribed quality.

The AICTE has set norms for regulating collaboration and twinning program between Indian and Foreign University/Institutions in the field of Technical Education Research and Training with an objective to safeguard the interest of student community in India and ensure uniform maintenance of Norms and Standards as prescribed by various statutory bodies. These norms are available at <https://www.aicte-india.org/sites/default/files/APH%202018-19.pdf>